Mindanao 'most dangerous' place for journalists

STORY ON PAGE A2

Maestro San Pedro; 89

SAN PEDRO

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

MAESTRO Lucio San Pedro, composer of the favorite lullaby "Sa Ugoy ng Duyan" and the symphonic poem "Lahing

MAESTRO/A20

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

UK's Queen Mum; 101

LONDON—Britain ón Sunday mourned its oldest and best loved royal following the death of the Queen Mother, whose life covered a century of tumultuous change for the

UK'S/A20

QUEEN MOTHER

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph | Monday, April 1, 2002 ★★ 74 pages / 6 sections / vol.17 / no. 112 P15 | website: www.inq7.net

Unmanned US spy plane crashes off Zamboanga

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—An unmanned plane used for aerial reconnaissance in the RP-US Balikatan 02-1 military training exercise crashed into Calbera Bay off Barangay Recodo here at 9:20 a.m. yesterday.

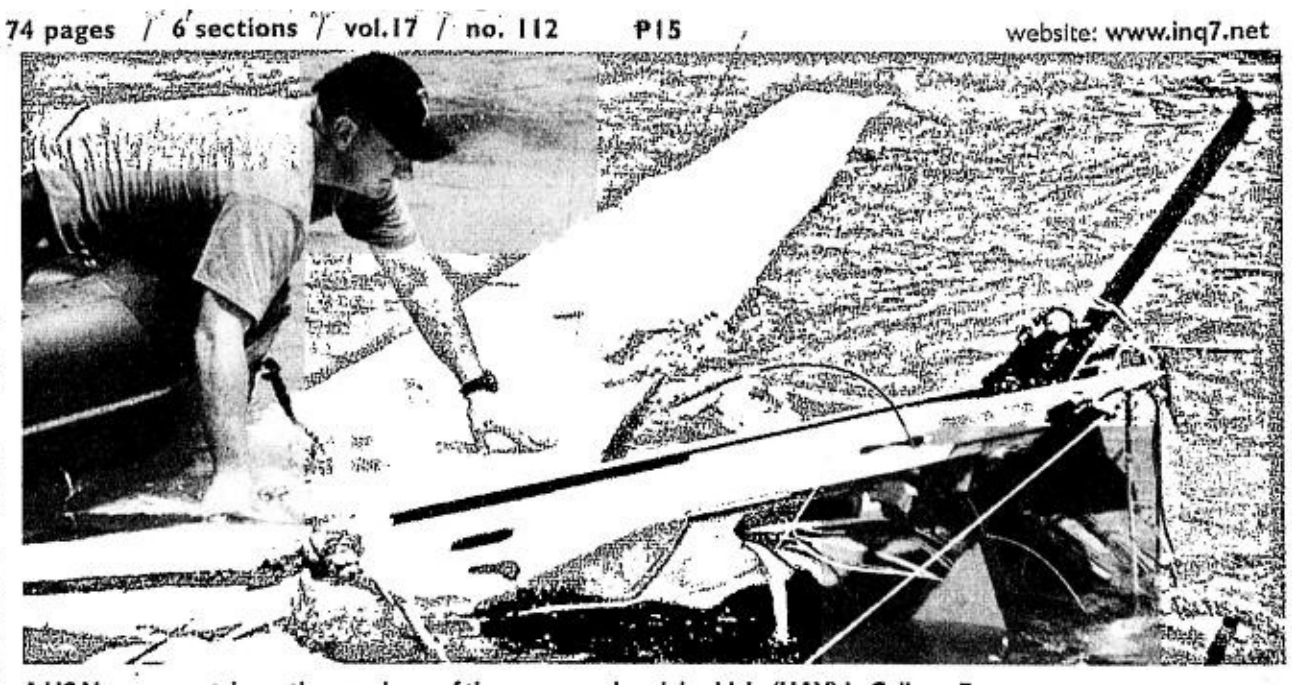
But Maj. Cynthia Teramae, spokesperson for the US military, said there was no evidence of foul play. She said the spy plane was on a "routine training flight" when it made an "emergency water landing."

"The Philippine Navy and the US Navy Seals recovered the UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle) almost fully intact," Teramae said. "They were able to recover it 30 minutes after it went down into the water."

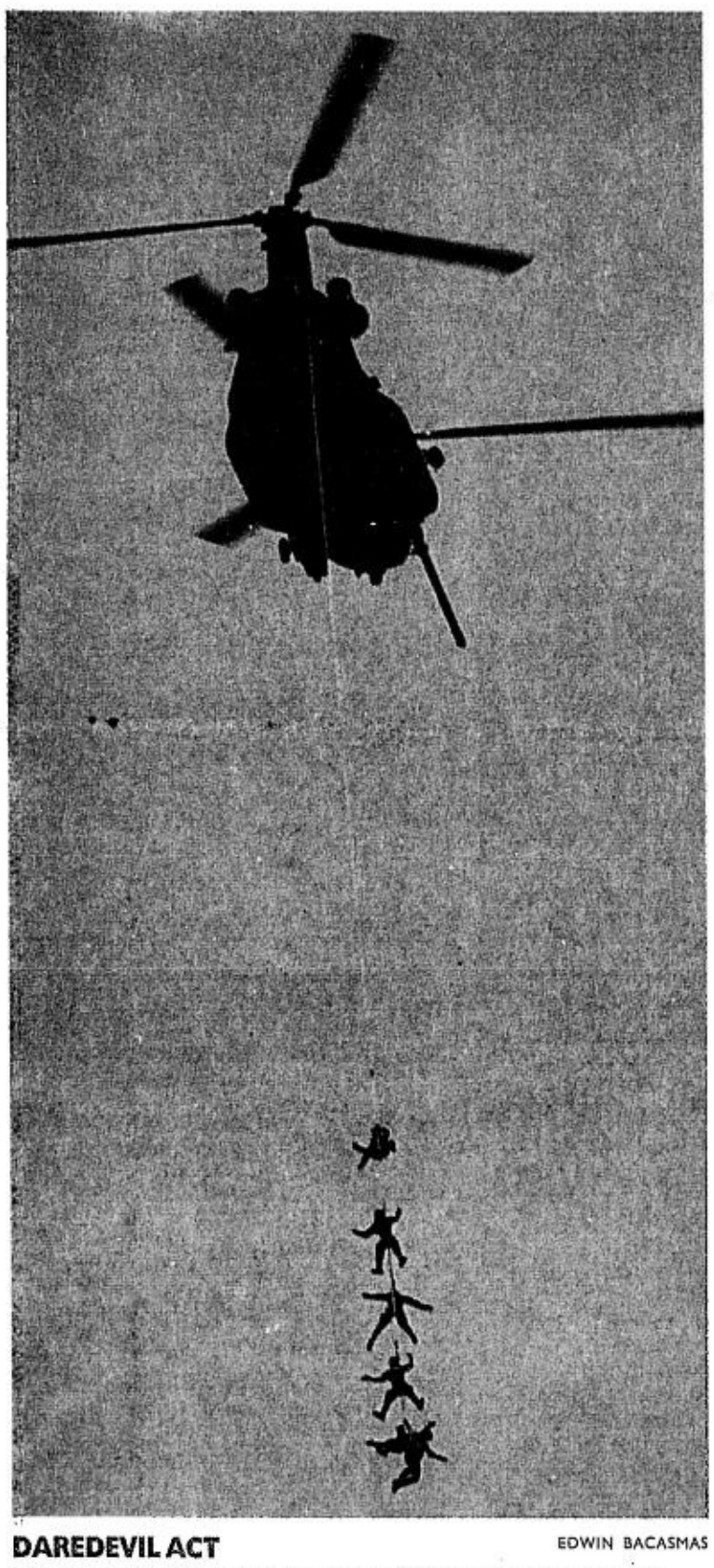
The white aircraft, its nose ripped off, was brought to the Ensign Majini Pier at the Naval Forces South headquarters in Barangay Calarian here.

It was initially snagged by six Filipino fishermen, who were using rope to tow it to a nearby Philippine Navy ship when six US servicemen and Philippine troops arrived in a pair of black rubber boats, the

UNMANNED/A7



A US Navyman retrieves the wreckage of the unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) in Calbera Bay. EDWIN BACASMAS



DAREDEVIL ACT EDWIN BACASMAS

Members of the US Special Forces and their Filipino counterparts dangle from a US Chinook MH-47E helicopter during an emergency evacuation exercise in Zamboanga City.

Marcos cronies' funds unfrozen

Swiss magistrate's ruling surprises PCGG

By Donna S. Cueto

SWITZERLAND has just dropped a bomb on the Presidential Commission on Good Government: Controversial Zurich district attorney and investigating magistrate Dieter Jann has lifted the freeze on the Swiss bank deposits of at least four Marcos cronies.

Jann's decision caught the PCGG by surprise. The lifting took place sometime in January, but the PCGG learned of it only recently.

"All I can say is that it was really unexpected," a PCGG commissioner, who requested anonymity, said.

The lifting came on the heels of the PCGG's filing of forfeiture cases against Geronimo Velasco, Carmencito de Borja Clavecilla, Fe Roa and Ignacio Gimenez, and Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez, who are reportedly keeping Swiss accounts together worth at least $20 million.

Only last December, PCGG officials said they had just received documents related to the alleged crony accounts from Swiss authorities.

The PCGG, the government agency tasked with recovering Marcos' hidden wealth, has already asked its Swiss lawyer, Martin Kurer, to file a motion for reconsideration.

The INQUIRER reached Jann by phone before the Holy Week break, and he confirmed that he had lifted the freeze. He refused to elaborate, however.

"I don't give any information. Ask the PCGG," Jann said.

He said the decision was "difficult to explain. It is the decision of the district attorney as a court of first instance."

The PCGG commissioner said that Kurer had written the PCGG to explain Jann's action, with Kurer admitting that he himself was "a little surprised" with the decision.

Kurer said Jann lifted the freeze because of "prescription." Without a Philippine govern-

MARCOS/A21

Frail Pontiff denounces 'horror' in Holy Land

VATICAN CITY—Summoning up his strength to raise his voice in a plea for peace, a frail Pope John Paul II turned his Easter Sunday message into a denunciation of the bloody chain of events that have plunged the Holy Land into "horror and despair."

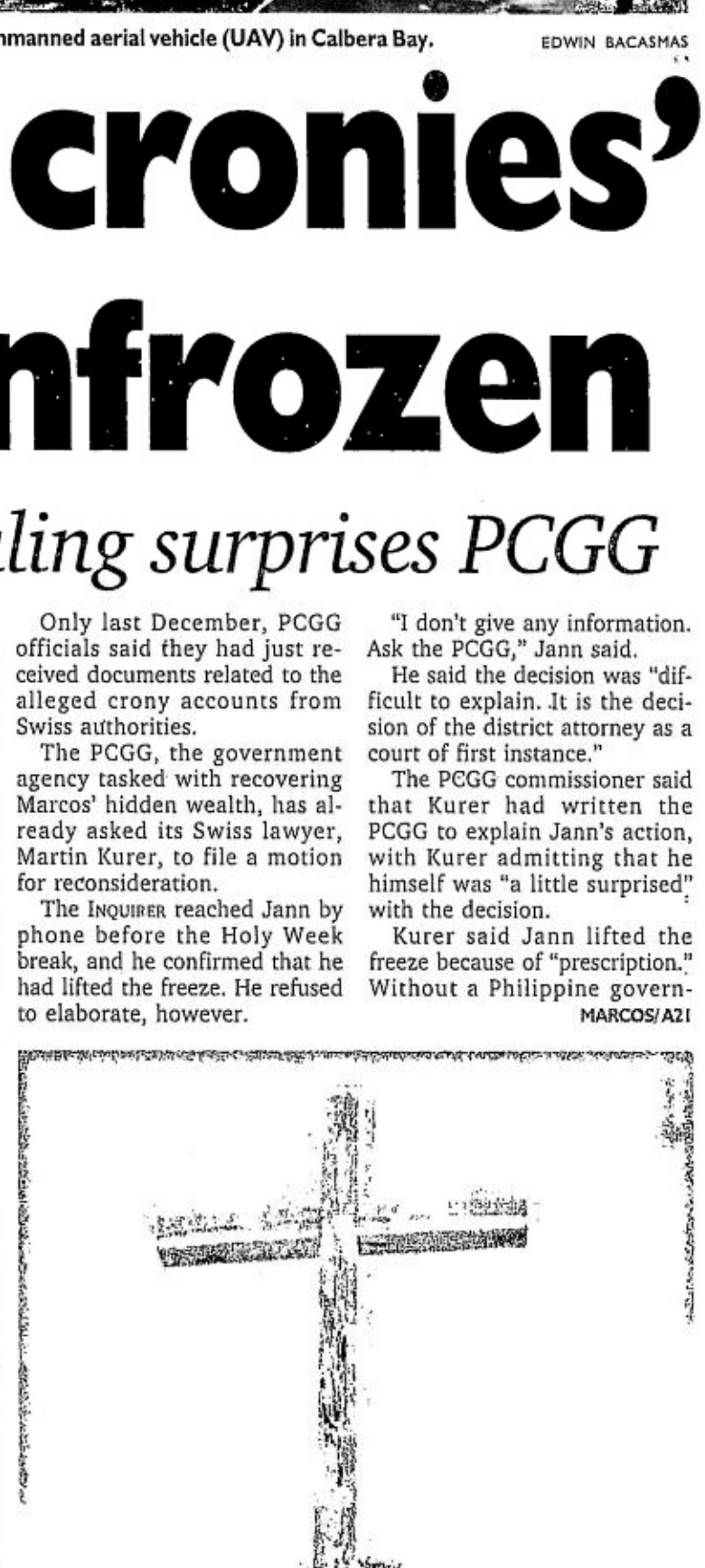
Hours after Israeli troops in the West Bank town of Ramallah exchanged fire with Palestinian guards shooting from inside Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's office, John Paul dedicated much of his Easter traditional "Urbi et Orbi" (To the City and to the World) address to the violent conflict between Israelis and Palestinians.

The Easter address wrapped up a grueling series of Holy Week ceremonies that saw the ailing, 81-year-old Pope drastically reduce his participation for the first time in his 23-year-old papacy.

In February, the Vatican said the Pope's doctors had told him to cut back his activities because of persistent knee pain caused by arthrosis, a joint disease.

Rome daily Il Messaggero reported Sunday that John Paul

FRAIL/A20



FIRST MASS RITES VAL HANDUMON

Two soldiers kneel before the First Cross Monument on Limasawa Island where Ferdinand Magellan and his men were said to have planted a cross and celebrated the country's first Mass 481 years ago.

Cement tariff punishes consumers

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

AGAIN, consumers are being punished to protect manufacturers.

The 10-percent increase in the price of cement in Metro Manila followed the imposition by the Department of Trade and Industry last December of a provisional duty of P20.60 per bag on cement imports.

The DTI attributed the price increase—P135 per bag from P125 per bag in February—to the surge in demand from the construction industry, which it attributed to the "confidence of the business community."

A less convoluted and more credible explanation is that local cement manufacturers cannot supply the shortfall and a shortage of cement has developed. And there are speculations that part of the reason for the shortage is hoarding, driven by the prospects of higher prices and continuing shortages.

If it is true that there is a high demand for cement because of the construction industry's apparent revival, this means that the new tariff is propping up the high cement prices.

CEMENT/A6

Haifa bomber kills 15; Arafat remains defiant

JERUSALEM—A suicide bomber blew himself up in a crowded restaurant near a shopping mall in the northern port city of Haifa on Sunday, killing at least 15 persons and wounding 40 others in the fourth Palestinian attack in Israel in five days.

The blast was so powerful it tore away much of the mall' roof, and shattered tables and windows.

As the bomb went off, a defiant Yasser Arafat remained a virtual prisoner in his headquarters in Ramallah, three days after Israeli forces laid siege to it.

The aggressive Israeli campaign to stop suicide bombings had earlier failed to stop a 22-year-old Palestinian from striking in Tel Aviv. Thirty-two Israelis at a crowded café were

HAIFA/A20

Erap tries int'l media to get 'fair treatment'

By Volt Contreras

DEPOSED President Joseph Estrada believes he cannot get fair treatment from local media and now wants to seek an international audience for his litany of gripes.

The question is: Will foreign media pay any attention to him?

ERAP/A6

Second FRONT PAGE

NY-BASED GROUP'S ASSESSMENT

Mindanao most dangerous for journalists

By Joey R.B. Lozano
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—Mindanao radio announcers and "outspoken commentators" are most vulnerable to violence, according to an international group fighting for the safety of journalists around the world.

The New York City-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) in its 2001 Philippine country report said there was also a continuous threat to radio announcers and outspoken commentators throughout the country because it remains "one of the most dangerous places in the world to practice journalism."

Since the 1986 peoples' revolt that ousted strongman Ferdinand Marcos, the CPJ said 37 Filipino journalists have been killed.

"(However) no one has ever been convicted of murdering a journalist (in the Philippines)," the CPJ observed.

In the report, which was released recently, the CPJ noted that both the Philippine military and the Abu Sayyaf terror group it is hunting down in Mindanao "use local radio commentators to score propaganda points against one another."

"Outspoken commentators may find themselves in lethal danger," the CPJ warned.

The CPJ cited the case of Rey Bancayrin who was murdered in the announcer's booth of a Zamboanga City radio station in 1998.

The good news, however, is that despite the dangers they face, Mindanao journalists and media practitioners in general throughout the country have survived, the report said.

The CPJ said the dedication of its journalists made the Philippine press stronger in 2001, "despite a tumultuous political culture plagued by corruption, social unrest, poverty and ethnic conflict."

"The Philippines steadfastly adheres to a tradition of free expression that makes it one of the most open societies in Asia," noted the non-partisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to the defense of press freedom.

Last year, the Philippines ranked third in the number of journalists killed worldwide with two victims.

Afghanistan ranked highest with nine killed after the United States launched its "war on terrorism." Colombia followed with three deaths.

The Philippines tied with Algeria, Thailand, the United States and Yugoslavia in third place with the two deaths.

Both Filipino victims were from the broadcast media. The first was Roland Ureta, a radio reporter from Aklan, who was murdered in January 2001.

Candelario Cayona of Zamboanga City was killed next in May. Before he was slain, he reportedly received an on-air death threat from a spokesperson of the Abu Sayyaf.

Two other journalists were killed last year but the CPJ has not established if their deaths were related to their jobs as journalists.

Mohammad Yusop, host of a religious program aired over dxID in Pagadian City, was shot in the back of the head by motorcycle-riding gunmen on Feb. 23, 2001.

The Islamic Broadcasting Co. owns the station.

On May 31 of the same year, Mindoro Guardian reporter Joy Mortel was killed in her home in Occidental Mindoro. Two men shot her after a heated argument.

The CPJ's Philippine country report also took note of businessman Raul Concepcion's call for the government to consider "whether or not the country's free-wheeling democracy and press are a deterrent to economic growth."

The call had drawn the ire of Filipino journalists, as well as President Macapagal-Arroyo who was quoted by the CPJ as having countered: "In the context of press freedom, I'd rather say that (some) reports are wrong and that I am irritated than clamp down on the freedom of the press."

GMA renews vow to fight poverty, gives Limasawa P1M

By Jani Arnaiz and Joey Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

LIMASAWA ISLAND, Southern Leyte—President Macapagal-Arroyo vowed anew yesterday to fight poverty in the country while on a visit to this historic but poverty-stricken island.

The President promised to donate P1 million toward infrastructure projects that would address the needs of the island's residents whose main livelihood has been greatly affected by over-fishing.

The President's promise came on cue. Minutes earlier, Maasin Bishop Precioso Cantillas was observing that Limasawa had been neglected as the site of the first Christian Mass ever celebrated on Philippine soil on an Easter Sunday 481 years ago—on March 31, 1521.

Speaking entirely in Cebuano in her 15-minute speech, the President said that "(because) you cannot fish anymore, I am setting aside P1 million for roads, hostels and other infrastructure projects to develop your eco-tourism while waiting for the fish to come."

Cantillas said Filipinos should be grateful for the grace of God that allowed Christianity to be brought to the island 481 years ago. But, he said, "one cannot claim jubilation. We can only give out a sigh of desperation."

"How could we be grateful when there seems to be neglect on the island?" the bishop said in his homily during the commemoration Mass.

The President, in her speech delivered after the Mass held at the plaza of Barangay Magallanes, acknowledged that much work was needed to eradicate poverty not just on Limasawa but in the rest of the country.

The President cited the case of Limasawa Island where 60 percent of the population is unemployed. With the island's fast-depleting marine resources, the President suggested Limasawa develop its tourism potential, particularly since "our history was created here."

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RP to forge currency deals with China, S. Korea

THE PHILIPPINES plans to forge currency swap arrangements with Asian countries including China and South Korea, similar to its existing accord with Japan, it was announced Sunday.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the swap agreements would help guard against external shocks that could affect the foreign exchange rate.

The swap arrangements allow the contracting countries to access foreign exchange from each other at special rates in the event of emergencies, like the 1997 Asian currency crisis that caused several monetary units in the region, including the Philippine peso, to fall sharply.

In a transcript of remarks released Sunday, Buenaventura said the government was considering a $3-billion swap agreement with China and a smaller one with South Korea.

"It's a precautionary measure. The more precautionary measures, the less the contagion. With more bullets, less attacks," Buenaventura was quoted as saying.

The Philippines sealed a $3-billion currency swap agreement with Japan in August last year.

Buenaventura said the "fine print" of the new agreements still had to be worked out, adding one major issue to be tackled was the conditions under which a country could access the full amount of the currency swap.

He suggested that a swap arrangement among Japan, China, South Korea and the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations could be the core for the creation of the proposed Asian Monetary Fund. *AFP*

Strike threatens biggest car paint firm

By Christine Herrera

AS OTHER firms sponsored Easter events for their employees, about 143 workers of Nippon Paint Phil. Inc. have decided to file a notice of strike with the Department of Labor and Employment against the company.

Singaporean-owned Nippon Paint controls 65 percent of the architectural and car paint market nationwide.

Thus, the workers said, there was no reason for the company to claim in ongoing collective bargaining talks that the company was losing money.

"How is that possible when we supply 32 million liters of the 50 million liters of car paint used nationwide? We cover 65 percent of the total market demand," said Adonis Guansing, a chemist and auditor of the Nippon Paint Labor Union.

Nippon Paint, a P1-billion company, has a plant in Cabuyao, Laguna.

The workers accused the company of "bargaining in bad faith" after its president, Thomas Goh, and vice president, Yit Wai Meng, retrenched 31 workers on March 8.

The workers are demanding a P125 increase in daily wages or a total package of P3,125 per year.

Guansing said Nippon Paint could well-afford to increase wages because the company made P600 million last year based on its declaration filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Once the workers strike, production at leading car manufacturers such as Toyota, Honda, Columbian Motors and Mitsubishi, and the Bacnotan Steel Corp. and Puyat Steel Co. would be adversely affected, Guansing said.

Being the major paint supplier for these car manufacturers, Nippon Paint produces 400,000 liters of car paint every month. Each car uses 16 liters of paint, Guansing said.

"We had no problem like this when the Japanese controlled Nippon Paint. It was only in 1997 that the union began facing serious problems when the Singaporeans took over majority ownership of the company," Guansing said.

Management claimed the company lost P297 million and there is an unsold inventory of paint worth P202 million.

"That's the sad part. The management places on us the blame for their incompetence. The P297 million represents the company's collectibles while the P202 million was the paint the management has stored in various warehouses in case our union goes on strike," Guansing said.

The workers asked the DOLE last week to intervene. They said they will hold a strike vote in two weeks.

Wary of pranks, Tiglao to take post tomorrow

APRIL Fools' Day pranksters better not get any ideas.

But just to make sure, Rigoberto Tiglao will assume his new post as press secretary tomorrow and not today, which is when his appointment officially takes effect.

At least this is what the erstwhile spokesperson of President Macapagal-Arroyo has allegedly been telling Malacañang insiders.

"He said he wants to skip Monday and start officially working as press secretary on April 2," an insider said. "It's April Fools' Day and he's not keen on having his appointment made the subject of pranks."

The insider said outgoing Press Secretary Noel Cabrera was scheduled to "just turn over" his office to Tiglao today and help the latter tie up "loose ends."

But Tiglao is not taking chances.

Yesterday he did not respond to calls or text messages on his mobile phone from Malacañang reporters requesting a teleconference interview.

While he normally grants such interviews with reporters working the Sunday shift, he must have suspected they were planning to rib him or, worse, pose trick questions to put him in an awkward position.

"He must be playing it safe and doesn't want to become an April Fools' Day victim," said a reporter covering the Palace.

It is possible, however, that Tiglao himself is playing an April Fools' Day joke on his Palace associates by pretending to be reluctant to start at his new job today. *Carlito Pablo*

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Next batch of Cuba-bound Pinoys not as lucky

By Blanche S. Rivera

BECAUSE of the revelation that Filipino workers who had been hired on a "special mission" for the US military in Cuba had been given special treatment, the next batch of workers to go to that island nation will no longer be given the same privileges.

A source who requested anonymity said the next group of 150 engineers and construction workers who are leaving to build prison cells to hold the al-Qaida prisoners of the Americans will be taking a commercial flight to Cuba instead of a chartered plane.

They will also have to undergo the usual security checks at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, unlike the first batch of 250 Filipino workers who did not have to go through normal departure procedures when they left Monday last week.

The source, who was privy to the hiring of the workers, said the next batch of 150 workers is on standby and is only waiting for the go-signal from US State Department.

The US government hired the Filipino engineers, foremen and construction workers reportedly with the blessings of Malacañang, which had vowed to help the US anti-terrorism campaign.

The 150 workers comprise the second batch hired to fill the 400 job orders placed by Brown and Root International, a company that does construction work for the US military.

The source said Brown and Root International had asked Anglo-European Services Inc., a local recruitment agency with affiliates in the United States and the United Kingdom, for 400 Filipinos to work in the construction of prison cells in Guantanamo Bay.

Top labor officials at first refused to believe there could be such a huge number of jobs available with an attractive compensation package for Filipino construction workers, the source said. Wages reportedly start at $7 an hour, much higher than the $5-plus per hour minimum wage in the US.

The labor officials were convinced the offer was real after the Philippine Embassy in Washington DC and the US State Department phoned the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration to confirm the job orders.

The source said 50 of the remaining 150 OFWs are "all set" to leave. Their papers have been processed by the POEA while the US State Department has released their US visas.

The documents of the other 100 workers are still being processed, although the source said these would be completed quickly due to the urgency of the US request.

All of the 400 Filipinos hired are experienced OFWs, having previously worked in construction in various countries, according to the source.

They also already had passports, which explains why they were not affected by the shortage of passports plaguing the Department of Foreign Affairs, the source said.

Gov't urged to go slow on GMOs

By Christine O. Avendaño

BECAUSE of the "lack of a scientific consensus" on the effects of genetically modified organisms on humans and the environment, the Department of Agriculture has been enjoined not to allow the entry or commercial production of GMO-altered products in the country.

Three congressmen and members of various people's organizations asked Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor in a March 25 letter not to issue the administrative order setting the rules and regulations for the importation of plants and food products derived from the use of modern biotechnology.

"We believe that signing the administrative order would be dangerously premature given the possible health, social and environmental consequences (of the GMOs)," the letter's signatories led by Representatives Satur Ocampo, Del de Guzman and Loretta Ann Rosales said.

They noted that there has been no independent study done anywhere in the world to determine the health risks caused by consumption of genetically modified food.

They urged the DA to accept an offer made by a Norwegian scientist to help the government conduct a safety test of GMOs, the first thorough biosafety study to be done in the world.

Dr. Terje Traavik of the Norwegian Institute of Gene Ecology asked the Philippine government last month to provide him with samples of a genetically modified corn being field tested in several provinces in the country.

Residents of these provinces have opposed the testing of the corn known as Bt-corn, which is said to contain toxins that kill plant pests.

In an interview with the INQUIRER during his visit to the country last month, Traavik offered to test the Bacillus thuringienesis or Bt-corn using laboratory rats. He said a five-year study could be conducted by Norwegian and Filipino scientists at no expense to the government since it would be covered by grants.

"We see this study as a very welcome opportunity to follow up on those concerns in a way that allows for the highest levels of scientific scrutiny and to allow our own scientists to work with the best in the world," the petitioners told Montemayor.

They also urged growers of Bt-corn to cooperate fully in the study by making their products available to the scientists.

"The government should make this one of its conditions for dealing with these companies," the petitioners said.

Aside from the three representatives, others who signed the letter were Beau Baconguis, Greenpeace Southeast Asia campaigner; Emmanuel Yap, executive director of Masipag; Rafael Mariano, Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas chair; Dr. Angelina Galang, dean of the Environmental Science Institute of Miriam College; Elenita Dano, executive director of SEARICE; Domini Torrevillas, columnist of The Philippine Star, and Fr. John Leydon of the justice and peace desk of the Columban Fathers.

Ching Ilagan, veteran journalist, was 71

CONCEPCION "Ching" Reyes-Ilagan, a veteran journalist, died last Saturday at the age of 71.

Ilagan was a staff member of The Manila Times under Joaquin "Chino" Roces. She was also society editor of Balita. A former president of the Philippine Agricultural Journalists Inc., she was at one time second vice president of the National Press Club.

On her retirement from print media, she joined radio station dwXI as a commentator on agriculture.

She is survived by her children and children-in-law, Ildefonso Jr., Aristeo Vicente and Carmen, and Ma. Fatima and Jesus S. Garcia; grandchildren Ma. Criselda, Ma. Patricia, Ma. Isabel, Vincent, and Ma. Jessamine and Jessette Garcia, and other relatives.

Her remains lie at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapel, Sucat Road, Parañaque City. Interment will be on Wednesday at the Coloma Cemetery in Rosario, Batangas.

C.A. Romero, 92

CONSUELO A. Romero, grandmother of The Philippine Star's Paolo S. Romero, died on March 26 at the age of 92.

She is survived by her children Lolita, Elmer and Madith, Raquel, and Oscar; grandchildren Theresa and Peps, Eileen and Jojo, Paolo and Mina, Kyra and Heino, Alda and June, Iona and Chris, Ralph, Myra, Alma, Werner, Jaymer, Katherine and Raymond, Sherwin and Milette, Sheila, Divina, Teresa Carlo and Joy; great-grandchildren Florence, Maiee, Jayjay, Aster, Erika, Justin, Julia, Lenie, Ina, Nadine, Joshua and Juan.

Her remains lie at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapel on Sucat Road, Parañaque City. Interment will be on Wednesday at 10 a.m. at the Manila Memorial Park also along Sucat Road.

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Anti-death penalty solons to work harder

By C. Avendaño

ANTI-DEATH penalty congressmen are expected to step up their campaign to repeal the Death Penalty Law following the announcement by the Department of Justice that executions would resume in August.

Akbayan party-list Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales said last week anti-death penalty congressmen will not only try to convince more of their colleagues to support a bill seeking the repeal of the death penalty law, but will ask the members of the Senate to do the same.

"We see a political battle ahead of us and we hope the Senate would remain steadfast in its position," said Rosales in a phone interview, referring to the fact that many senators support the repeal of the Death Penalty Law.

Rosales, chair of the House committee on civil, political and human rights, said she would give priority to working for a bill repealing the death penalty when Congress resumes sessions on April 15.

She acknowledged the House position on the abolition of the death penalty was "ambiguous."

So far, 62 anti-death penalty congressmen have expressed support for a repeal of the law, while 68 are for a House resolution seeking the "full implementation" of the law.

Rosales said she has asked human rights groups and other nongovernmental organizations like Pahra and Flag to write their congressmen to support the repeal.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez last week said two men convicted of kidnapping are set to be executed in August, the first executions in the Macapagal administration.

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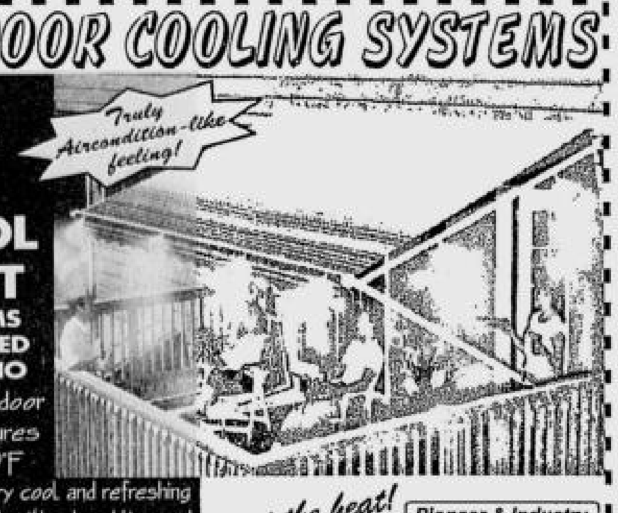

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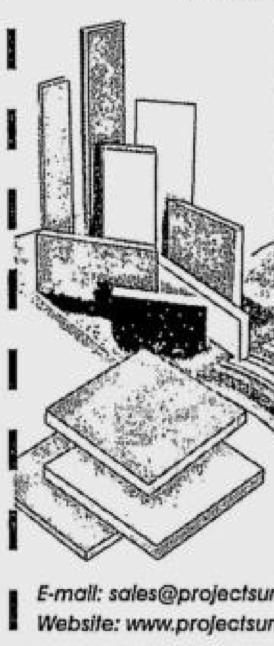
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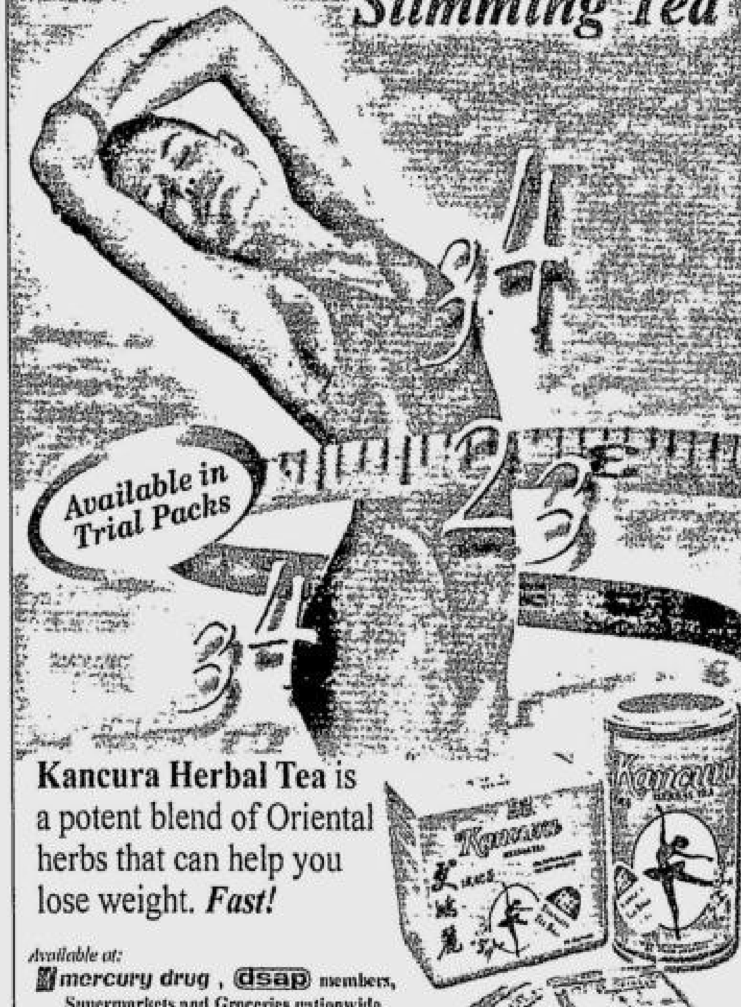

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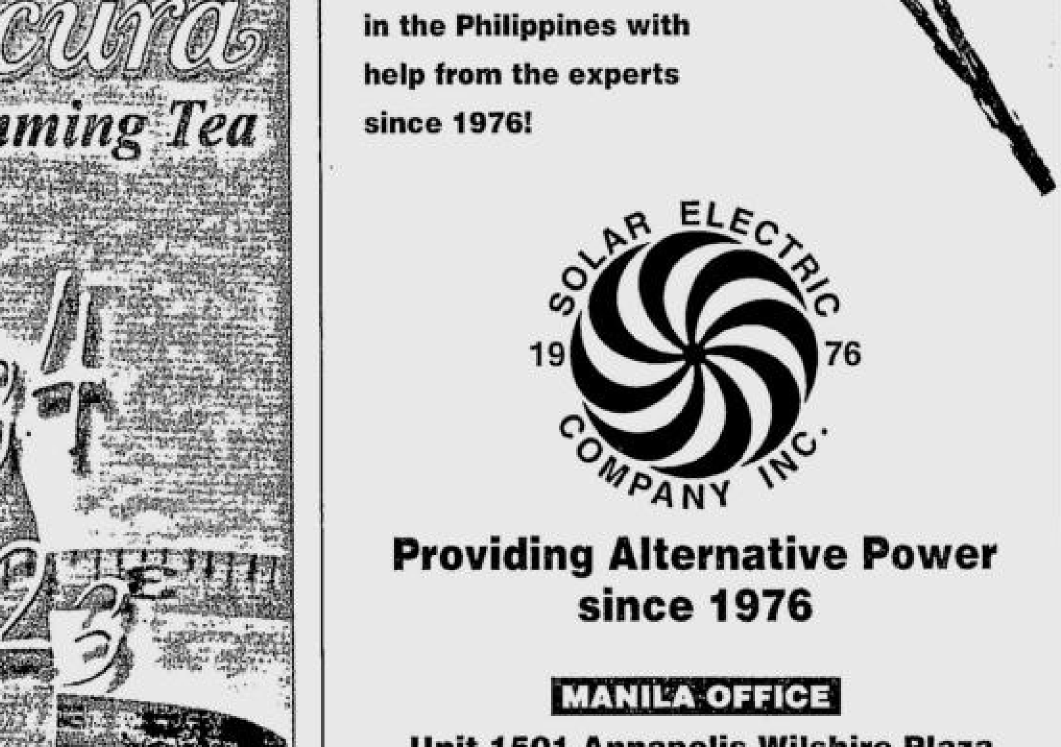
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Cement tariff punishes consumers

From page A1

In short, local cement manufacturers are being given protection by the tariff for being non-competitive with producers of imported cement—and consumers of cement are being punished to protect the manufacturers.

Protectionism

The new tariff was slapped in accordance with Republic Act No. 2000, which provides safety nets to local industries facing ruin from foreign imports.

The reapplication of protectionist measures in the cement industry is an example of the resurgence of the protectionist syndrome.

This syndrome was forced into being by the difficulties facing the Philippines in adjusting to the intensely competitive trading environment fostered by the World Trade Organization (of which we are a member), and the narrowing of the range of our exports after the depletion of our natural resources.

Natural resources in agriculture and minerals formed the bulk of our exports in the 1960s up until the 1970s, when industrialization produced new exports to widen the band of exports.

Protectionism is the offspring of the economic nationalist policies that served as the framework of our economic development policies from the time of the Commonwealth government beginning in 1935.

A recent paper on Philippine economic nationalism (January 2002) by Gerardo P. Sicat, professorial lecturer at the University of the Philippines' School of Economics, foreshadowed the rise of the clamor for the protection of local industries as the country lurched into the uncharted seas of a global trading environment.

Under the heading "Consequences of the Protectionist Policies," Sicat, who chaired the National Economic and Development Authority during the regime of President Ferdinand Marcos, issues the reminder that the "consequences for the nation of the four decades when protectionist policies dominated industrialization policy were costly."

"Some of these cannot be quantified because they were opportunities lost for not being taken," he writes.

What might have been

"But the opportunities not taken were precisely the essence of what might have been," Sicat points out. "New export industries failed to grow as in other countries among Asian neighbors. The country, with an enormous supply of labor, was not producing exports that employed labor resources unlike the other countries in the region."

He notes that "most newly approved industrial projects were mainly for the domestic market, and many of them had little employment impact."

He adds: "The fiscal and other incentives for industry were geared mainly for import substituting industries, even though by the late 1960s, an export incentives law was in place. That law placed more incentives for exports to enterprises that went into exports. They were not targeted toward attracting projects in industry that were for exports. In fact, there was a contradiction. By controlling excess capacity in some industrial projects, the government put a bar against enterprises that were mainly destined to produce for exports. This required a special type of treatment, that is, to local industrial export zones rather than in the general domestic economy.

"These project proponents were mainly domestic corporations trying to fill up existing demand with import replacing industries. The foreign corporations that expanded capacities were essentially assuring themselves of keeping their Philippine market. In this way, subsidiaries of foreign companies continued to expand only as permitted by domestic demand. To acquire machinery and equipment, they needed foreign exchange resources. And they had to borrow a large part of it from either government financial institutions or supplies credit (which required amortization installments in foreign exchange).

"To sustain their raw material demands, they often had to import. To sell their products, they demanded a higher protection rate to guarantee their profit. To import raw materials, they wanted low tariff rates.".

High price

Sicat writes that many of the industries promoted for import substitution not only squandered the foreign exchange resources of the country but also "contributed to the balance of payments crisis because of their insatiable demand for dollars."

"And they penalized consumers for high prices," he notes.

Sicat also writes that "by tilting major incentives in favor of import substituting industries through excessively favorable policies, the nation paid a high price."

"It was not only a cost to Filipino consumers in the market place—that is, you and me and the working masses of labor earning their hard-earned keep," he writes. "Many of these industries—and the power of their lobby—caused the country to dissipate the large resources of foreign exchange that the country was earning in the early decades of independence."

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The University of the Philippines - Diliman Bids & Awards Committee (BAC) invites interested contractors to submit their prequalification documents for the Infrastructure Construction & Renovation Projects of UP Diliman for the calendar year 2002. Only licensed contractors (at least Category C) with IAC registration will be accepted. Specialty contractors for Landscaping, Electrical, Waterproofing, Communication and other Infrastructure specialty works will also be prequalified as separate groups. Contractors who are eligible will be invited to bid on the following Proposed Projects:

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MBB Renovation Works at NCPAG Bldg.
CS Library & Administration Bldg.
Roof Repairs Renovation Works
Sampaguita Residence Hall Reroofing & Misc. Works
Center for Women's Studies
Reroofing of Gonzalez Hall Center for International Studies
Benton Hall Façade Improvement
CBA Bldg. Renovation of Tearoom
Alonzo Hall Power Supply for DILNET at Malcolm Hall & Bocobo Hall
Renovation Works
Vargas Museum Renovation Works
Institute of Chemistry, PH Pav. 1 & 2
Renovation of Benton Hall

Electrical Upgrade of Service Entrances:
- Malcolm Hall
- Benton Hall
- Rizal Hall
- Palma Hall & Pavilions
- CBA Building
- Palma Hall Annex
- Benitez Hall
- Bartlett Hall

UP Diliman Infogate Nat'l Inst. of Physics (NIP) Building
Phase 2 College of Architecture Building 1
Phase 2 College of Architecture Building 2
Phase 1 OA-OUR Building CSWCD Bldg.
Phase 4-B CSWCD Bldg.
Phase 5 CMC Media Center, Building 2 & 3
Various Renovation / Repair / New Construction Works and various Structured Cabling projects

Prequalification forms are now available at the Office of the Campus Architect (OCA), Coral Building, Lakandula Street corner De los Reyes Street, UP-Diliman, Quezon City, upon payment of P300.00. Please call 920-5301 local 8032 / 8033 or 927-8656 for further inquiries.

A letter of intent addressed to the Chancellor through the BAC is to be submitted to the Office of the Campus Architect together with the accomplished forms. Deadline of submission of prequalification or eligibility documents is on or before 5 p.m., April 16, 2002.

The University reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any required formality in the bids received, or to accept such bids or to award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to the University. The University assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any firm for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bid proposals, nor that it guarantees that a selection will be made.

EMERLINDA R. ROMAN
Chancellor

Erap tries int'l media to get 'fair treatment'

From page A1

The ex-President yesterday said he would start sending out press materials to foreign media companies to expose the "conspiracy" and "falsified facts" surrounding his ouster.

"I cannot get a fair treatment from the current setup of the media here which is controlled by some families and suppresses news that is favorable to me," he told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

But when asked to cite examples of "suppressed" news, Estrada could only recall news reports concerning the opening of the controversial "second envelope," shortly after his ouster.

He said that when the envelope yielded bank documents pointing not at him but at his friend, Jaime Dichaves, as the real owner of the Jose Velarde account, local media did not give prominence to the news.

Estrada said his press materials would be distributed mainly "in the United States and Europe."

They will include video clips of his recent court-approved interview with Net 25, capped by news footage of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Estrada said the footage would show Davide in an ambush interview on his way to the Edsa Shrine on Jan. 20, 2001 where he said he was swearing in then Vice President Macapagal as "acting President."

The other clip contains a portion of Ms Macapagal's speech at the Edsa Shrine, saying she was "to act as President," Estrada said.

These are just some of the "falsified facts surrounding her oath-taking," Estrada said.

A 29-page article, "The Grand Deception," written by Estrada's longtime friend and legal adviser, former Chief Justice Andres Narvasa, will also be given to foreign media.

The press materials are actually rehashed arguments that Estrada had raised when he questioned the legitimacy of the Macapagal presidency. The Supreme Court has affirmed the legitimacy of the Macapagal administration.

Estrada, who turns 65 on April 19, has been detained at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City since April 25, 2001, on charges of plunder, two counts of perjury and illegal use of an alias.

He shares his detention suite with son Jinggoy, his co-accused in the plunder case.

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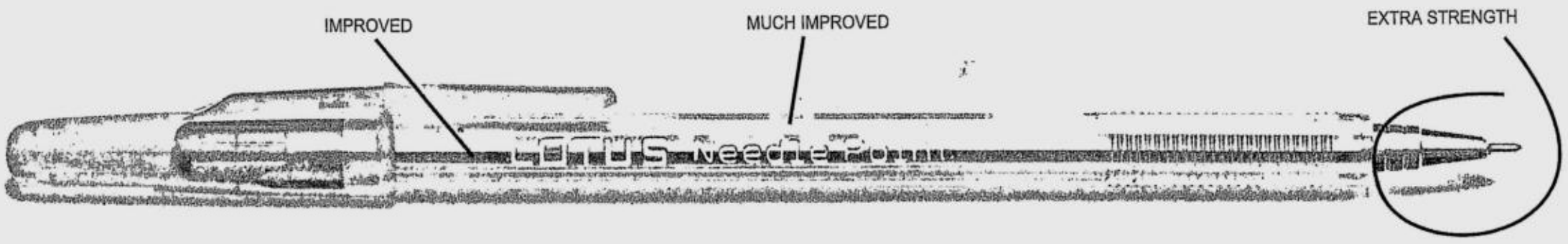

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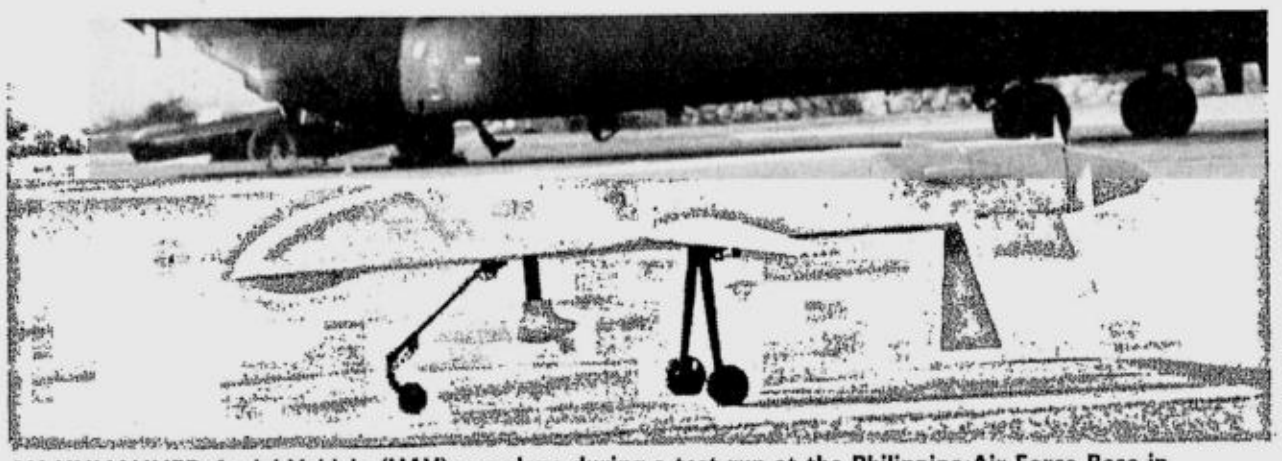


AN UNMANNED Aerial Vehicle (UAV) spy plane during a test run at the Philippine Air Force Base in Zamboanga City. REUTERS

Unmanned US spy plane crashes

From page A1

Associated Press reported.

The Americans cut electrical wires on the plane, which had a wingspan of 8-10 meters, and took several parts away as two helicopters hovered nearby.

It was the second US crash since the joint military exercise aimed at helping the Armed Forces of the Philippines stamp out the Abu Sayyaf began in late January.

On Feb. 22 a US MH-47 Chinook helicopter went down in flames in deep waters off Zamboanguita, Negros Oriental, killing all 10 American servicemen aboard. Only eight of the bodies have been recovered so far.

Teramae said a safety investigation team from the US military would investigate the cause of the mishap, determine whether the downed UAV was still functional, and look into damage costs.

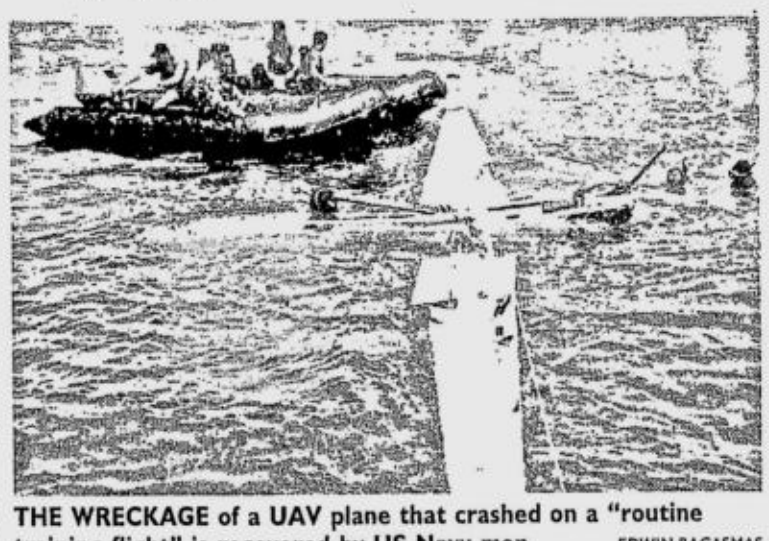
The spy plane was manufactured by the US firm Sanders Aviation.

Spinning

Residents who saw the UAV before it plunged into the bay said it was spinning and appeared to be out of control. "We heard a loud noise like the sound of a power saw, and when I looked up, I saw the plane twirling. It looked like it wanted to go up, but then it went down," Eddie Bernardo, a resident, said in the vernacular.

The US military brought in the UAVs—operated by US soldiers by remote control from the Edwin Andrews Air Base here—shortly after Balikatan 02-01 started.

Maj. Noel Detoyato, a spokesperson for the Philippine military, earlier said the spy planes provided crucial information in helping with the capture Saturday of 11 suspected members of the Abu Sayyaf, including at least seven who were allegedly involved in recent attacks.



THE WRECKAGE of a UAV plane that crashed on a "routine training flight" is recovered by US Navy men. EDWIN BACASMAS

The bandit group, which the US government has linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, is holding hostage American missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham and Filipino nurse Ediborah Yap in the nearby island of Basilan.

Teramae said the UAVs were complimenting P3 Orion planes being flown in Southern Philippines.

She declined to say "as a matter of policy" how many UAVs were being used and how much the planes actually cost.

Unmanned, remote-controlled spy planes have been used extensively by US forces in Afghanistan for reconnaissance as well as military strikes.

One type, the Predator, which can take photos as well as video, has crashed at least four times since September. *With an AP report*

Recovery raises hope of Chinook mission

By Alex V. Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—The recovery of five bodies of American crash victims from the Chinook plane wreckage on Thursday has buoyed hopes to find the two other missing military servicemen in the Mindanao Sea south of Negros Oriental.

"We are going to succeed in this mission," a member of the recovery team, who refused to be named, said, "and we will not stop until all bodies are accounted for."

The MV Jan Steen, a Dutch-registered salvage vessel based in Singapore, stayed 4.6 miles south of Apo Island, where parts of the wreckage of the MH-47 Chinook helicopter are scattered over an area of 450 square meters 500 feet under the sea.

Among other reasons, the ship was chosen for the job because of its ability to stay in place even without dropping anchor, through its Dynamic Positioning System, sources said.

Aided by submersible remotely operated vehicle (ROV), more pieces of the plane were recovered. Investigators on board the vessel continued to determine a possible explanation of the Feb. 22 crash that killed eight Army and two Air Force crewmen.

Eight bodies have so far been recovered.

A statement from the Pacific Command said that aside from recovering the bodies of the crash victims, the salvage operation will attempt to retrieve wreckage of the helicopter, including the voice-activated data recorder (VADR), engines, and weapons.

Saturday's operation encountered a minor setback after one of the investigators, aviation specialist Lee Wolford of Maryland, suffered a hip fracture. He was brought to the Silliman University Medical Center Foundation Inc. here for emergency surgery.

Wolford was fetched by a US C-130 plane Sunday afternoon and brought to the National University of Singapore hospital to install a compression hip screw.

The salvage operation is supervised by the Naval Sea Systems Command, which provided the US government-owned towed pinger locator an ROV and a shallow water side-scanning sonar search system called SWISS.

The bodies that were recovered Thursday were placed in a refrigerated van on board the ship.

They will be brought to the Mactan Benito Ebuen Air Base in Cebu, en route to the Charles C. Carson Center for Mortuary Affairs at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware.

From there, the remains would be turned over to their next of kin for final burial arrangements.

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OPINION

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Israel's mistake

HOURS before Israeli tanks and troops blasted their way into Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Ramallah headquarters on Good Friday, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and his cabinet took a pro-forma step: they declared Arafat an "enemy" of their state.

The declaration was necessary to justify the assault on Arafat's compound, because until last Thursday the chair of the Palestinian Authority was nominally Israel's principal partner in the on-again, off-again peace process. It came less than 48 hours after yet another Palestinian suicide bomber claimed the lives of more innocent civilians—22 Israelis celebrating the Passover Seder, the ritual meal at the start of the week-long Jewish holiday. Since the start of the second Palestinian uprising in September 2000, more than 380 Israelis have been killed in terrorist strikes. Last month alone, some 100 Israelis died, mainly at the hands of suicide bombers.

EDITORIAL

But to the outside world, the declaration seemed dangerously close to a rationalization. Sharon—like many of Israel's top leaders a former general—has made no secret of his antipathy toward Arafat; he has said Israel should have killed Arafat a long time ago. The second uprising has also claimed the lives of many Palestinians. Since September 2000, more than 1,100 Palestinians have been killed, some 200 of them in March alone.

Israeli officials have assured the United States—its closest ally and principal military supplier—that it will not harm Arafat; yesterday, a foreign ministry spokesperson said the soldiers will stay inside the compound until Arafat broadcasts an appeal to his people to stop the suicide bombings. Israel's government believes, not merely that Arafat is *not* powerless to stop the terrorist wave, but that he is actually behind it.

As of presstime yesterday, three days after the siege began, Arafat remains trapped in his Ramallah compound, a virtual prisoner, with Israeli forces literally just outside the door of his cluster of offices.

But if Sharon thinks that the specter of suicide bombings will fade simply by pointing a gun, or the turret of a tank, to Arafat's head, he is grievously mistaken. Worse, he has misread his own country's epic history. This is not to say that Israel's decision to ratchet up the confrontation with Palestinian nationalists by taking over Arafat's compound does not have a logic of its own. But it is the logic of the Torah (the Jewish scriptures) gone horribly wrong: two eyes for an eye, a fistful of teeth for a single tooth.

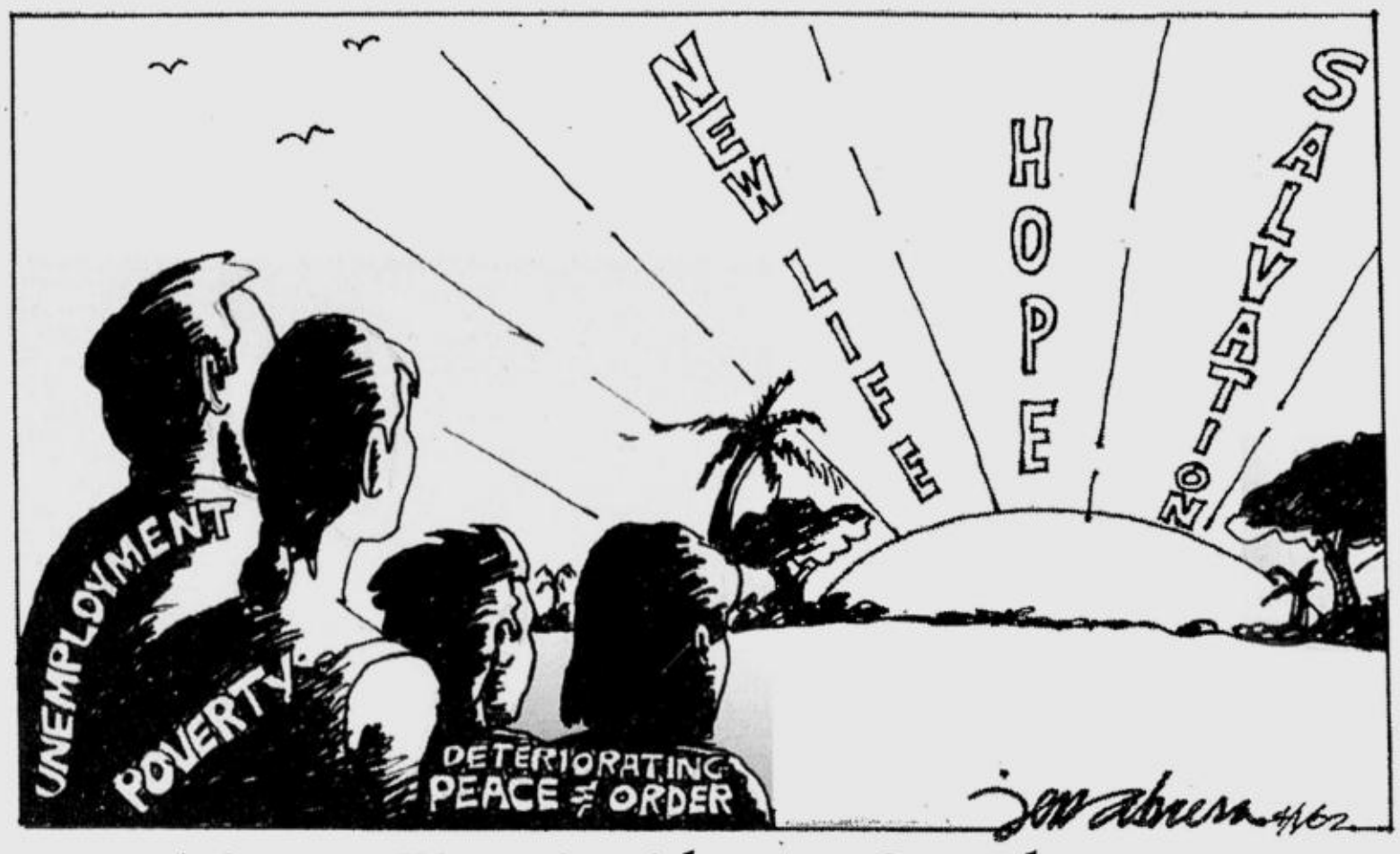
On the day the Ramallah siege was laid, another Palestinian suicide bomber attacked a supermarket, killing two Israelis. Yesterday—while Arafat remained inside his office, without electricity and without telephone landlines—a suicide bomber struck again, injuring 32 guests at a popular café in Tel Aviv. We can be certain that this kind of terrorist act, abominable as it is, will not be the last.

How is it possible that Sharon and his cabinet cannot see this?

Because they have placed all their faith in military superiority. Peace, they think, comes from the barrel of a gun.

By invading the Ramallah compound, Sharon has driven Arafat up the moral high ground. He has adamantly refused to surrender or to give in to Israeli demands; instead, he said he is preparing to die a martyr's death. Terrible as this is for the future of Israeli-Palestinian relations, Friday's military operation has claimed a bigger casualty: nothing less than the Middle East peace process.

A day before Israel launched its siege, a summit of Arab nations meeting in Lebanon had made an unprecedented peace offer: essentially, it supported the proposal of Saudi Arabia for all Arab nations to strike a permanent peace with Israel if the Jewish state withdrew from all territories it seized in the 1967 war. Like many peace plans, it needed reworking, but in the post-Sept. 11 political landscape, the Saudi proposal offered the best chance of comprehensive peace since the founding of modern Israel. Now that offer, like Arafat himself, is trapped in Ramallah.



Atienza, Lim air sides on Comelec case

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

TODAY is April Fools' Day, but it seems Manila Mayor Lito Atienza celebrated it more than a week in advance when he called a press conference during which he announced that the disqualification case against him had been dismissed by the Commission on Elections. This was given wide publicity by print and broadcast organizations. Well, the premature April Fools' joke is on them. The case dismissed was not the disqualification case. It was a different case. It was a petition to suspend proclamation. In fact, it had already been dismissed by the Comelec back in May 2001. Why the Comelec's First Division dismissed it again is suspicious.

They don't even have the same case numbers. The disqualification case against Atienza is docketed as SPA 02-001 filed on April 16, 2001, before the May 14, 2001 polls. It is still pending resolution by the Comelec en banc. The case dismissed by the First Division is SPA 01-239 filed on May 15, 2001, one day after the elections, for suspension of Atienza's proclamation. There was no prayer for disqualification in this case. It had already been dismissed on May 23, 2001. There is nothing more to be decided in SPA 01-239.

But last March 18, 2002, the First Division dismissed again this SPA 01-239. Why?

Election lawyers Pete Quirino Quadra, counsel of former Mayor (and defeated reelectionist candidate) Alfredo Lim, claimed that the controversial resolution was "a smuggled attempt to railroad the dismissal of the disqualification case" against Atienza (SPA 02-001) by the Comelec en banc. The National Capital Region Office of the Comelec, before which this disqualification case had been filed, had recommended to the Comelec the annulment of the proclamation of Atienza and his disqualification from continuing to hold office.

As early as May 17, 2001, the director of the Comelec NCR had already recommended the suspension of Atienza's proclamation for violation of the Omnibus Election Code. However, the petition for disqualification (SPA 02-001) was unreasonably delayed and was resolved by the Comelec NCR only on Jan. 29, 2002. It was revealed by Lim at the Kapihan sa Manila last March 11 and was reported in this column. (As I See It, 3/14, 19/02) This recommendation still has to be decided by the Comelec en banc.

Perhaps because of this, Quadra said, the First Division came out with a new dismissal resolution of 01-239 to influence the Comelec en banc to also dismiss SPA 02-001 and to mislead the public. (I interviewed Mayor Atienza after this column was written and his side will be reported here later.)

The dismissal resolution was allegedly prepared by Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco and signed by presiding Commissioner Rufino Javier and Commissioner Resurreccion Borra. But the disqualification case was not even assigned to Tancangco. She has no authority to prepare a "ponencia" of a case not assigned to her. Because of this, Quadra claimed, the questioned resolution of March 18, 2002 is null and void, and also because it attempts to resolve the issue of disqualification which is not an issue in the case it dismissed. (SPA 01-239)

The basis of the dismissal is that "the elections have already been concluded, thereby making the same moot and academic." However, pursuant to Section 6 of RA 6646, the Comelec is obligated to hear and decide on the merits the disqualification petition against Atienza because it was filed on April 16, 2001, before the May 14, 2001 elections. The Supreme Court had ruled in Bagatsing vs. Comelec that "the rules on disposition and resolution of (disqualification) cases filed **before** or **after** an election vary." Cases filed **after** an election are to be dismissed. In Sunga vs. Comelec, the high court ruled that disqualification cases filed **before** an election should be heard by the Comelec and decided on the merits despite the proclamation of the candidate sought to be disqualified. SPA 02-001 was filed before the May 14, 2001 elections.

In fact, Borra, one of the signatories to the dismissal resolution (SPA 01-239) and the acting Comelec chair, issued a clarification that the "disqualification case against Atienza has not yet been dismissed despite the mayor's claim to the contrary. What was dismissed was the petition to suspend Atienza's proclamation. We are scheduled to hear the disqualification case...after the Holy Week."

* * *

In an interview, Atienza admitted that there were two different cases but what was dismissed (SPA 01-239) was the "mother case." If it was dismissed, then the other case must also be dismissed, he said.

In the first place, there is no sufficient grounds to disqualify him, he said. "They accuse me of using more than P2 million of city government funds for gatherings of various city leaders just before the election campaign period (interpreted by the Comelec NCR as 'premature campaign activities' and vote buying), but even if they were held an hour before the campaign period, they are still not prohibited acts," he said. "And the city government has appropriations for such gatherings and consultations. It has a budget of P25 million annually for such activities. P2 million is less than 10 percent of that."

Atienza explained in his defense that those acts were part of his "constant consultation and liaisons with barangay officials, the youth and NGOs necessary to address the pressing, relevant problems and needs of the community...They were perfectly legal as they were sanctioned by the Local Government Code of 1991.

"Government operations do not cease to be operative during the election period lest public interest be jeopardized," he said.

Day of truth

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

IT'S official:

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will pull out the American troops from Basilan. She will also not allow any more US troops to set foot on Philippine soil. After spending Holy Week deep in meditation, she has been struck by a bolt of enlightenment like Paul on the way to Damascus. She now says there's something wrong in the equation of 6,000 troops utilizing state-of-the-war technology not being able to rout a small band of kidnappers on a small island.

It took the United States a month to crush the Talibans who had Pershing missiles in their arsenal and were spread out over a land Allah forsook. It has been three months since the first American troops landed in Basilan, and all they've crushed is an epidemic of hare lips. Not being possessed of a small IQ, unlike her rival in the Veterans Memorial Medical Center, Ms Macapagal says she knows when she's being taken for a ride—which is pretty much in a defective Chinook.

Even more importantly, after coming out of her dark night of the soul, the President has found light and has announced she will not run in 2004. She is grateful that she has had the chance to act as President for more than three years, and wants to show her gratitude by making this sacrifice for the country. By not running again, she hopes to stop partisan politics dead in its tracks and rally everyone—political leaders, the people, even critics—behind her. More importantly, she hopes to prosecute Erap without fear, knowing she need not be concerned about her political future, knowing she has put herself on a high moral ground.

Not being possessed of a small IQ, she knows when it's time to stop trying to look cute for photographers. She realizes that even Sharon Cuneta doesn't look cute anymore when she's trying to look cute. Not being possessed of a small IQ, she knows what the monumental choice is: She can run again, and lose—which is more than likely—and be a diminutive footnote to history. Or she can not run again and govern well—and loom large in the hearts and minds of her people. A place in the great hall of history, or in its dustbin: It's her choice.

Elsewhere, from the bowels of the VMMC, Erap who has been meditating as well, aided in no small way by the Lent-inducing afflictions of gout and the other things he's gotten from a lifelong dedication to wine, women and song (not necessarily in that order of importance), has also seen the light. In a sudden burst of madness or discovery last Friday afternoon, he saw that his plight was really not, as he had been saying all along, like that of the person who was nailed to the middle cross, but to those of the ones who were nailed to the left and right side of him. The person in the middle, Erap now realized, was innocent, all he did was tell people to love one another. While he, Erap, was not so innocent, all he did was to tell only some people, particularly of the opposite sex, that he loved them. Not everybody else. Everybody else he screwed in quite a different way than those he said he loved.

Inspired by the example of the fellow beside Christ, the one who admitted to being a thief but begged to be taken along to paradise, Erap has decided to admit to being a thief himself and beg his country's forgiveness. He figures that after a lifetime of dedication to vice, he should be more concerned in the next few years about his soul than about his knee. He has only one problem about telling the truth. Which is that they do not give Famas awards to people who tell the truth. Hell, they don't even give Famas awards to those who can act.

Still elsewhere, the senators, or at least those who have already come back after doing their Lenten penitence in the Caribbean and the American east and west coasts, have announced they will no longer spend most of their time trying to seat and unseat Senate presidents. Additionally, they have announced that they would reappropriate their right and obligation to make and amend treaties, which is what allowing US troops to come and go represents.

Not to be outdone, the congressmen have announced that they would no longer be absent from sessions because it is a shame that the Batasan hall should always be empty while the slums around it are hard put to accommodate their teeming millions. Others have vowed to come on time because tardiness is next to ugliness.

Jaime Cardinal Sin has decided to forsake the things of this world and become a monk. Bishop Socrates Villegas has decided he will stop reading "The Prince" and will instead read "The Little Prince." The PNP has decided to abolish itself, realizing that it will automatically reduce the number of criminals in this country. The leaders of Pro-Gun have decided to aim their favorite high-caliber pistols at their heads. The people who see pornography in bare skins have announced they have found more pornography in their hidden thoughts.

Code NGO has decided it will stop calling itself a genius and calling "innovative" a ploy to make money known as floating a bond. Their NGO friends have also decided to stop comparing the same ploy that has been known to everyone, chief of them Marcos' friends, a long time ago, to Galileo's discovery of the sun being the center of our universe. The Comelec has decided to disbar regular candidates and admit only nuisance ones in 2004 since the regular candidates tend to become the real nuisance to the country. The oil companies will lower their prices, Erap's legions will not riot at the end of the month, Baguio will not play country music for one day.

Finally, April Boy will retire today, today being the most auspicious time to do that.

It's official: Today is April 1.

Lenten traditions in Paris

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

PARIS—The French capital is lovely any time of the year, and to many tourists it's the most beautiful city in the world with its broad tree-lined avenues and elegant gardens and plazas and the unmatched illumination of the Renaissance and neo-classical buildings and landmarks such as the Eiffel Tower, the Arch de Triomphe and the Place de la Concorde, and even bridges like the Pont Alexandre with its turn of the century street lamps. But to me Paris is particularly intoxicating in the spring, which officially began last March 20, as the trees in its avenues, rendered bare by the past winter, begin to exhibit the first leaves in a delicate chartreuse shade.

From the way domestic and foreign tourists have flocked to Paris at this time, it's obvious that I'm not alone in this assessment about the beauty of the French capital in the spring. France is said to lure some 50 million tourists every year, and from all indications, they are already descending on Paris in such droves that even when they cross the street they appear as moving masses of solid humanity.

* * *

It's easy to keep track of spring, aside from the sprouting leaves: Easter Sunday was the Sunday after the first full moon in spring. The beauty of having four seasons is that like Easter Sunday, the resurrection of Jesus Christ, which follows Good Friday, His crucifixion, spring is a time of renewal for Nature following a dark and dreary winter. Paris is one city that glorifies this rebirth of Nature in the flowers that have begun to bloom all over the city parks and gardens such as the Tuileries in the heart of the capital, and on porches of the fashionable apartments. The myriad varieties include yellow daffodils, tulips in white, red, yellow and even purple; the white and mauve magnolias, and the white and pale pink blooms which pass for cousins of Japan's famed cherry blossoms. The Parisians are quick to return the bounty of Nature, for at the first burst of sunshine after the dreary, wet winter, they are all out in the parks, soaking in the sun with bottles of wine or taking leisurely strolls.

My favorite place to ogle the glorious spring flowers is at the Rond Point along the major avenue here, the Champs Élysées. The Rond Point (Round Point), consists of four corners of a small intersection that regularly sport the flowers in bloom for a particular season. Parisians look forward to the changing of the floral landscape at Rond Point every season, and this spring it was just beautiful.

* * *

It was just my good luck to accompany my husband, here to attend a conference, at this time of the year, for I was able to observe certain Lenten practices of the French. Our Paris-based friends, lawyer Aquilino "Jun" Opena and his wife Lilia Campo-Opena, formerly connected with the Unesco here, told us upon our arrival last week that it has been a long tradition in the French capital to display the relics of the Passion of Our Savior, Jesus Christ, every Good Friday, for the veneration of the faithful at the magnificent gothic Cathedral of Notre Dame. These relics are the Crown of Thorns of Jesus Christ, a nail of the Passion and a piece of His Cross discovered in Jerusalem by St. Helena, the mother of the Christian Emperor Constantine of the old Byzantium, now Turkey. The Openas, who accompanied us to Notre Dame, warned us of the long queues, but we chose to brave them in order to experience this moving once-in-a-lifetime encounter with the relics of Christ's passion and death.

* * *

The Crown of Thorns, consisting of a band of woven rushes 21 centimeters in diameter, into which long and harsh thorns had once been stuck, is now encased in a glass sarcophagus which the faithful can kiss. According to church authorities, these thorns had been scattered over the centuries as gifts by the emperors of Byzantium or the kings of France. Kept as early as 409 A.D. among the relics in the Basilica of Mt. Sion in Jerusalem, these relics were transported to Byzantium and in 1238, the Latin emperor Beaudouin de Courtenay, faced with great financial difficulties, pawned them to Venetian bankers. But King Louis IX of France, who later became St. Louis, after compensating the Venetians, caused the relics to be brought to France where they were solemnly welcomed in Paris in 1239 and later enshrined in a small chapel, the Saint Chapelle, which is famous for its exquisite stained-glass windows. After the French Revolution, the relics were brought to the Notre Dame Cathedral and handed to the care of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem where they have been since then.

* * *

From Notre Dame we rushed to the Basilica of Sacre Coeur in Montmartre, where the archbishop of Paris, Jean Marie Cardinal Lustinger, was reliving another Good Friday tradition—the Way of the Cross at Montmartre, a steep and rocky hill on which the huge grayish-white basilica is built. The tradition calls for the archbishop of Paris to carry on his shoulder every Good Friday a huge replica of the wooden cross of Christ through 14 stations ascending up the hill. Last Friday, thousands accompanied Lustinger up the hill of Montmartre, praying and singing penitential hymns at each station. By the way, Lustinger is said to be a strong favorite to succeed Pope John Paul II; if he does, it would be the first time since the days of the popes of Avignon more than 500 years ago, that a Frenchman will get to sit on the throne of Peter. The French appear to be excited over this prospect, and if one argues that electing a French pope is virtually impossible, they argue back that that was what everyone thought about Karol Cardinal Wotjyla of Poland until he was elected John Paul II.

Ardent wish of an OFW

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

FOR most Filipinos who have to go abroad to earn a living, homesickness is a real problem. They look forward to news from home through the mail, newspapers and the Internet to soften the loneliness of living in a place they cannot call home.

In Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, many of our *kababayans* do not mind paying four times the listed price of newspapers published in the Philippines, even if they're two days old already, just to get a feeling that they are back home reading the local dailies. Minus, of course, the pages that do not meet the standards of the Saudi moral guardians.

For reasons of convenience and economy, the Internet has become the favorite source of news of expatriate Filipinos. In the INQUIRER's case, it has joined up with Channel 7 in the operation of a newspaper website, INQ7.net, that enables Internet users to read its contents in cyber form.

An expat Filipino based in Singapore, Manuel Aquino, recently sent a touching e-mail to this column. He expressed his concern about the future of the country judging from the news he has been reading on the Internet.

He wrote: "I am an OFW working here in Singapore for a year now. Almost every day, after work, I try to update myself on the 'happenings' in our beloved country. I am referring to reading the website of your newspaper which I find very informative.

"However, reading your newspaper never gives me the essential thing that I expect writing news should be, that is, 'positive and responsible' journalism. Forgive me for voicing this out but I feel that the backbone of giving information is giving hope for those who starve (for) it."

Sacrifices

"I feel that of all the Filipinos, we, the OFWs, are the ones who take the strongest blow whenever negative news comes out. We feel that our sacrifices will not end at all and that we will be prisoners here all our lives as long as the 'bad' Philippine (conditions) exist. We are afraid to come back, really. Afraid that there may not be food to eat anymore or even a safe place.

"I feel your newspaper, as the most read of all, could give us the biggest help that we need. That is, to give every Filipino the chance to walk positively as you guide us to the road back home.

"Perhaps, 'being blind' cannot be compared to 'looking positively.' A ringing news may be important to put you in a nice bed, but a clean and happy conscience will make the sleep peaceful.

"I love our country like you and while we are far away, I see the Philippines as a battered woman being beaten and raped by laughing men. Men, who are saying that they are intellectuals but are evil...very evil. This is how some of your news strike me, not much of a help but adding anger and fear.

"Please give us hope."

Positive news

From the way the letter was written, it is clear the reader is an intelligent and articulate person. Although he did not state the nature of his employment in Singapore, my guess is he works in one of the high-tech IT companies that have pitched camp at the island-state because of its favorable business climate.

The reader's request that the INQUIRER give more attention to "positive news" rather than "bad news" has also been aired by other readers. They want to read more about things that show the good side of the Philippines, rather than heinous crimes, acts of graft and corruption and publicity-oriented statements by politicians.

There was one reader who, to prove his point that the newspaper is oriented toward the negative aspects of Philippine life, made a list of what he considered the bad news that came out of the front page of the INQUIRER during a two-month period.

The issue of "positive versus negative" news has been the subject of numerous discussions among the editors. Should the newspaper give premium treatment to positive news (meaning, news that make you feel good after reading) to the extent of relegating negative, but significant, news to the back pages or nowhere at all, or should the events in the country be published, whether good or bad, as they happen?

It cannot be denied that during the past months the country has been beset by serious social, political and economic problems. The kidnappings and killings in certain parts of Muslim Mindanao continue unabated. Former President Joseph Estrada has not stopped his tirades against the present administration. Millions of Filipinos are unable to find gainful employment. The list is practically endless.

In other words, the bad news seems to overwhelm whatever good news there may be in the community. To make matters worse, the people in government who are tasked with showing to the people that the government is responsive to their needs are sleeping on their jobs.

Balance

The editorial staff concedes that in light of existing conditions it would be difficult for the newspaper to accede to the readers' request to discriminate against negative news in favor of positive news without abdicating its mission to truthfully and timely inform the people of events that may affect their lives.

The newspaper will just have to find a balance between reporting the news, whether positive or negative, and making the readers feel good about themselves and the country through news that can contribute to that feeling.

Thus, every day the front page of the INQUIRER usually carries an item or two with a human-interest angle that can somehow "soften" the impact of whatever not-so-pleasant news beside it.

And if you haven't noticed, the Sunday edition of the newspaper is replete with stories about the triumphs of the human spirit or acts of kindness that show that this country is not so bad, after all.

For some, that effort may not be sufficient but given the constraints that the newspaper has to live with, I think that is the best arrangement possible, so far.

Perhaps, the reader in Singapore can take consolation from the fact that his concerns are shared by the editorial staff and that it is doing something about them within the limits of its capabilities.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

'Good news' on April Fools' Day

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Carlos Isagani T. Zarate

IT'S welcome news. After having done some serious reflecting during the Lenten break, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo announced on Easter Sunday the early termination of the Balikatan 02-01 war exercises in Mindanao. It certainly is one brave act going against the will of the "hawks" in her administration. Finally, the present administration has gotten its senses back with the realization that the country's policies, both internal and foreign, must be free from the dictates of George Dubya.

Ms Macapagal's announcement was a relief, coming in the wake of confirmed reports of civilians killed, injured and displaced during supposed combat operations in the past days in Basilan against the Abu Sayyaf. These reports came at the heels, too, of evidence gathered by members of the International Peace Mission that proved the active participation of US Special Forces during actual combat operations against the Abu Sayyaf.

This decision, which left several hawks dismayed, put an end to a grand plan of expanding the so-called US global war on terrorism to other parts of Mindanao and in the country in the guise of countering the guerrillas belonging to the MILF and the NPA. In reality, that grand plan was only to promote their own economic interests. The vast Liguasan Marsh in Central Mindanao is one of the areas proposed by these hawks because of its rich natural resources.

But Ms Macapagal's decision to terminate the Basilan "war games" was also obviously made to cushion the impact of the Supreme Court's impending decision to declare the said combat operations participated in by American forces as "unconstitutional."

Indeed, as pointed out by those opposing the Balikatan in Basilan, the unprecedented involvement of American troops in solving an entirely internal police problem in Basilan has no justification whatsoever, not in the provisions of the Visiting Forces Agreement nor with the Mutual Defense Treaty. Former Senate President Jovito Salonga successfully argued that the real purpose of the US presence in Basilan is not so much to rescue the hostages, especially the Burnham couple, but to further perpetuate its interest not only in the country but also in the Asia-Pacific region.

* * *

Unimpeachable "sources" from the camp of Erap told me over the weekend that the former president will eventually forgo his plan of going on exile to the United States. Instead, Erap will just request his American doctor to come to the country for his knee operation. However, Erap will make more "surprise announcements."

These "sources" claimed that Erap, also after much thought and reflection during the Lenten season, finally realizes that he really erred and erred big during his aborted presidency.

When his trial resumes, Erap plans to enter into a plea bargaining agreement with the government's prosecution team. He and Jinggoy will plead guilty to the plunder charges, in exchange for a lighter penalty. He will also ask the government to make a clear accounting of his alleged plundered wealth, excluding those that he gainfully earned as an actor and politician. He will also ask that the other charges against him and his son be dropped. As a former president, he will also ask that he be given a "special cell" within the Bilibid Prisons, if it is not possible for him to serve his sentence inside the Sta. Rosa cell built for him by the government. Finally, he will also ask President Macapagal that he be pardoned if he can prove that he serves his sentence "peacefully"—that is, without further destabilizing her administration even beyond the 2004 elections.

The "sources" said Erap decided on this strategy after talking lengthily with his *pro bono* lawyers during the weekend. Apparently, Erap finally saw some wisdom from his new lawyers that he did not get from his "dismissed" high-caliber lawyers. He realized that he can no longer deny that he is indeed Jose Velarde!

* * *

That the small-scale miners from the gold-rich Mt. Diwata (commonly known as Mt. Diwalwal) in Compostela Valley Province temporarily ended their protest last Wednesday is only part of the good news. The miners, who were protesting a Cease and Desist Order issued by Monkayo Mayor Joel Brilliantes, who is a miner himself, had barricaded a bridge linking Davao City and Davao del Norte and other provinces. In a dialogue presided by Interior Secretary Joey Lina and attended by Presidential Assistant for Mindanao Jesus Dureza and other top local government officials, Brilliantes agreed to issue the necessary mayor's permit to the small-scale miners on the condition that they comply with environmental laws.

But the real good news that emerged out of the protest was that of exposing the plan of the multinational Southeast Mindanao Mining Corp. (SEM) and JB Mining Corp. (owned by Brilliantes) to control the resources of Mt. Diwata at the expense of the small-scale miners. It also exposed present big-time financiers in the area who merely used genuine small-scale miners to continue with their environmentally disastrous mining practices for the past several decades.

If the plan pushes through, the mining activities in Mt. Diwalwal will finally be rationalized and be given to the genuine small-scale miners, with the support of the national government and to the exclusion of the big-time financiers, including the multinational SEM.

* * *

Well, it's April Fools' Day today and I can only wish that these "good news," pranks as they are, were true!

* * *

Comments to karlos_z23@hotmail.com or kar_laws@yahoo.com

Mathematicians invade Hollywood

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

OLD friends, (just a few), texted or e-mailed to inform me that our friendship was over, when I wrote a commentary recently calling "The Lord of the Rings" a loveless epic and its movie version, juvenile. Though J.R.R. Tolkien's trilogy, and its prelude "The Hobbit," were instant favorites of mine on first discovery in the '70s, they are inescapably in the sword-and-sorcery fantasy genre. In fact, they are a thinly disguised epic allegory about the struggles of the free world (Middle Earth) against fascism and communism (Saruman and Sauron) circa 1930 to 1950, when Tolkien was writing the books.

That is probably why Frodo in the movie is a kind of Alice in World War land, but with hairy feet and computer-handsome; and the Shire, a phantasm of Merrie Olde England before the Industrial Revolution decimated the elves and ents of Sherwood Forest, and the dwarves forever vanished before a horde of Hun-like orcs dressed up like genetically modified Russian Cossacks having a bad hair day.

There may be a message for animated filmmakers in the hobbit-sized Oscars that last year's highly acclaimed animated film garnered. The Academy acknowledged its grand cinematography and whiz-bang computerized wizardry, the sweet fruit of modern math's labors. But without "Best Picture," its special effects did not add up to movie magic of Oscar proportions.

Well, traditional elements are missing as there are no families in the story, no Homo sapien women, no sex, no love interests, no truly messy, moral ambiguities in the movie's center stage, just an idealized struggle between absolute good and absolute evil. There are no gods in Middle Earth, no religion or culture in any recognizable sense. Perhaps deities stranger than the characters already in Tolkien's created universe cannot plausibly be conjured, even by the Author of the Century. By the way, the movie's publicist who got that dubiously garnered distinction for Tolkien should have gotten a fat raise. I can think of many 20th century authors more deserving of such a title, too many, in fact, to mention even one.

Maybe what really doomed the movie's chances for Best Picture was the drama called the "War on Terrorism," playing across the street from the Oscars at the theater of real life. Sept. 11 was not something its producers could have foreseen, nor that their film would suffer as a caricature by comparison to the still-unfolding events that began on that date.

For Best Actor, there was no way for Frodo to upstage the ever-earnest Tony Blair, the British prime minister taking up President Gandalf W. Bush's call to arms against Sauron bin Laden and his secret ally, Saruman Hussein. And of course, it has no entry for Best Actress in its sexless plot and androgenic cast, unless you want Galadriel for Best Faerie.

Best Picture was awarded to a very different kind of movie in "A Beautiful Mind" starring last year's Best Actor, the gladiator Russell Crowe playing a brilliant but possibly delusional mathematician. I fell asleep watching this movie the first time, because, by a topological singularity of the nth order, I had already seen Saigon bar-girl Lea Salonga, playing the troubled, mathematician-daughter of another demented mathematician, in the Manila presentation of the Broadway hit, "Proof." Here, three of the four characters are mathematicians, two of them possibly crazy. In the play, Lea turns out to be a real mathematical genius proving important theorems.

But Lea's performance was like that of Crowe's, whose permanent expression in the Best Picture is one of utter befuddlement, as in "I don't really know what I'm doing in this weird role, I'd rather be doing the Coliseum (or Saigon)." He didn't get Best Actor maybe as a result of that. He was more convincing in the Roman arena with battle-axe and mace than Princeton and cryptographic number theory.

As a physicist, I can only congratulate the tribe of mathematicians for their big break in show business, even if they are portrayed as introverted mutants with preternatural powers and queer habits. At least they're not pictured as mad megalomaniacs out to blow up the world. We have enough problems with the way the Department of Education has been treating mathematics and science teaching in the public schools, that a little Oscar attention can't hurt. There is, after all, no greater humanity than the scientific enterprise, but there's no magic like Hollywood.

(By the way, I was in the most hospitable company of the education department's curriculum development committee under Undersecretary Fe Hidalgo last week. She asked me to join their deliberations after I criticized the new Basic Education Curriculum of the public school system for not having science subjects in Grades 1 and 2 and for reducing high school science time from 80 to 60 minutes per day. These, and other important developments on the education front deserve further consideration after April Fools' Day!)

In a time of escalating world war against terror, this year's Best Picture "A Beautiful Mind" is a love story, as it should be. In it, the mind is made beautiful by a heart full of reasons that reason knows nothing of, just to paraphrase a great French mathematician and lover, Blaise Pascal. Now there's a life and a role that could easily match Denzel Washington (Best Actor) with Halle Berry (Best Actress) in a steamy blockbuster.

* * *

Comments to deanjbocobo@yahoo.com

False development

THE FLURRY of engineering activities in Basilan, supposedly after American assessment of the area, is designed principally to advance the pursuit of the US-led war against global terrorism and particularly against the Abu Sayyaf. The activities are undertaken not to seek development for the people's sake no matter how deeply felt the need is or as it is set out in the United Nations Declaration of the Right to Development. It is a perversion of this right.

The building of infrastructure albeit clearly beneficial to some, as in the temporary employment it brings, is more symbolical and in fact hides the neglect and the human rights violations by both the national and local government, as well as the concomitant corruption. An example is the timed exposure of the multimillion-peso electric bill of Basilan and the forced intervention of the Macapagal administration to ensure uninterrupted electrical current for the Balikatan 02-1 military exercises. Another is the implicit tolerance of the "Ina ng Bayan" for the bullying of military and local officials of Basilan women, as in Maj. Gen. Romeo Dominguez's statement in a congressional hearing calling nurse Fe Sanchez de Castro a liar, and in the abduction, with impunity, of women relatives of supposed Abu Sayyaf members by Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar and Maluso Mayor Sakib Salajin.

The foremost victim entombed in the infrastructure development drive in the war against the Abu Sayyaf is the truth of collusion between the bandits and some members of both the military and local government. While such activities are meant to be a public relations gem in the effort to win the people's sympathy, considered vital to the anti-terrorist strategy, the superficial development activities of war perpetuate and exacerbate this impoverishment and its repercussions. This false development must stop.

The Balikatan exercises must also stop colluding with the Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone and Freeport Authority in interfering with the Subanen's development of their ancestral domain in Limpapa, Zamboanga City.

The Macapagal administration should seriously mold its development plans and projects within a human rights framework. This is a sure path to peace and people's development.

—MAX M. DE MESA, deputy executive director for operations-Mindanao, Task Force Detainees of the Philippines, 45 St. Mary St., Cubao, Quezon City

LETTERS

New technology for garments needed

THE TOURISM industry is high profile but it is not the only way to help boost the country's economic situation. What about the garments industry, which had kept the economy afloat before the overseas Filipino workers' deluge of dollars came in? The Department of Trade and Industry's initiative to revitalize the industry should be supported.

Strengthening the garments industry by the introduction of new technology will be a good hedge on the OFW bonanza. As we all know, this has dwindled in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

—NATHANIEL LAGRIMAS, 18 Matimpiin St., V. Luna, QC

Game of media manipulation?

AUSTRALIAN newsletter promoter Peter Wallace writes March 21, "Why is it so hard to own a house here?" He compares it to Australia.

The answer is simple, and he avoids it. It is because we are so poor and Australia is so rich. When the foreign invaders came to Australia, the black inhabitants had much land and food. Now they have food stamps, and a tin shed. So the new breed of foreign "businessmen" come to our shores to aid us as we get AIDS.

Wallace also wrote the day before to deny that he told Philippine Star columnist Teddy Benigno that the Philippines was "heading for the chasm." Not me, he claims as he blames unnamed "visiting foreign businessmen." Why the secret? Why not name names, if they exist?

Our country needs help, not media manipulation for publicity purposes to make money out of us.

—ERNESTO WONG, 5022 P. Burgos St., Makati City

Finish Estrada's trial

SEN. Loi Ejercito has to support her lavish claims and tenacious belief that her husband is still President. She cited Amando Doronila as her authority to support the proposition that Joseph Estrada remains and still is the President because "*Hindi naman ito ang tungkulin ng Korte Suprema ayon sa ating Saligang Batas,*" she said. And so, who should determine (as the final arbiter of legal/constitutional questions) who, in the circumstance, is President? Obviously, it is not Doronila or Erap's misguided followers.

To her claim that the law (Plunder Act) provides that one charged with it and subsequently acquitted should be reinstated sounds logical and so let us proceed with the trial sans the dilatory tactics or maneuvering of the accused. Erap may just find himself acquitted, despite his admission of being "Jose Velarde" who signed the bank documents showing culpability.

—ROMULO R. CANDOY, 1512 Candida St., Pandacan, Manila

Much delayed contempt charges vs Estrada

WE concede that, like any accused of a felony in court, former President Joseph Estrada is presumed innocent until proven guilty. Such is one of the inviolable rights accorded by the Bill of Rights to every person who is charged in court. He cannot be deprived of it nor can any court give the same any meaning less than what that right is meant to convey

It is absolute. The right can only be effectively pierced when the prosecution has adduced credible, adequate and sufficient evidence to prove the guilt of the accused beyond reasonable doubt.

But, in Erap's case, we face the sad spectacle of the Sandiganbayan being helplessly held back in trying him because of his contemptuous antics, mindlessly hurling baseless charges not only against the Sandiganbayan, but also against the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, who he himself, in fact, appointed to that position. When he charges that the Sandiganbayan and the Supreme Court cannot dispense justice in his case, will the courts just take it sitting down and simply ignore Erap's wild accusations without any action being taken? Will the judiciary allow itself to be used as a tool in Erap's public relations gimmickry to erode the people's faith and trust in our judicial system?

As a detainee, albeit in luxurious and comfortable quarters, is Erap, as a former President, entitled to royal privileges? Other Filipinos facing charges for like capital offenses also suffer detention, but under Spartan conditions. And even those who are charged with lesser offenses who cannot put up bail because of poverty suffer detention, however under harsher conditions.

But Erap is the worst type. He committed the heinous crime of plunder, punishable by death, which, ironically, he himself co-authored. And he knowingly and consciously committed the same while sitting as President of the Philippines, in utter and gross betrayal of his oath of office and of the public trust reposed on him. Yet, under detention and within the jurisdiction of the Sandiganbayan, he appears licensed to do things as he pleases. He receives treatment other Filipino detainees are not allowed. Can the Sandiganbayan, however, hold Erap in contempt for contumacious conduct? Certainly.

Even if already detained, the court can still impose further sanctions. For starters, the Sandiganbayan could order the removal of all articles of comfort out of his present hospital suite which are not normally allowed other detainees awaiting trial. Remove or limit the number of visitors lining up for entry to his cell. Erap should be made to experience and feel the same "pleasantries" served on those who are likewise being tried for capital offenses. His coverage on radio, television and the newspapers should be treated as news items, not as political gimmicks.

In short, Erap should be made to realize the gravity of his offenses against the Filipino people and accordingly, must be treated in the same way and manner as other persons charged with any crime.

—BOBBIT SANCHEZ, RODRIGO H. MELCHOR, Sanchez Melchor & Associates Law Firm, 4/F Prudentialife Bldg., 843 Arnaiz Ave., Makati City

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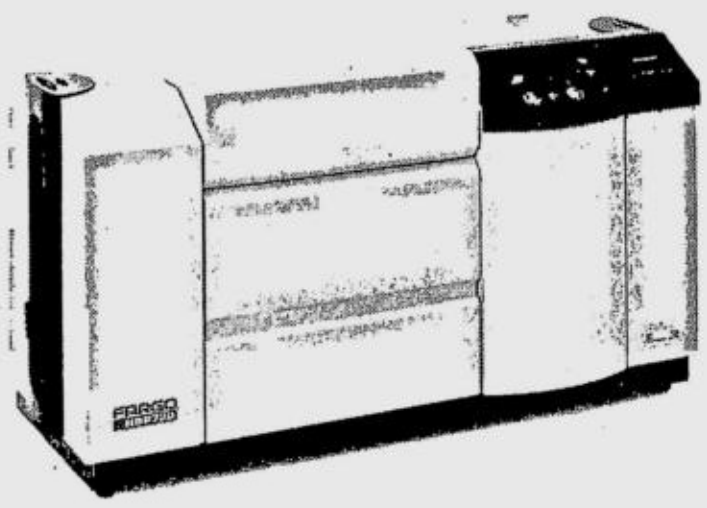

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

OIC MEETING IN MALAYSIA

Muslim nations hope to improve image

KUALA LUMPUR—A fresh bid by the Muslim world to dispel the notion that terror and Islam are linked gets under way Monday in Malaysia, but experts said the gathering of foreign ministers from Islamic nations could do little to improve the religion's image.

The representatives from the 57-member Organization of Islamic Conference will attempt in the three-day meeting to produce a redefinition of terrorism that they hope the world will use as the basis for a global system to identify terrorists and their sponsors.

"Our views of terrorism are being sidelined and marginalized," Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar of Malaysia, the meeting's host, told The Associated Press.

Saying that there was an "urgent need" for Islamic nations to make their voice heard, Syed Hamid hoped the meeting would "be a catalyst for an international conference on terrorism."

But experts were skeptical, saying the expected Declaration on Terrorism would be a tough sell. What was really needed was a meaningful and sustained dialogue with the West and its media, they said.

"The best way to improve the image of Islam is for Muslims themselves to set a correct example of what Islam is about," said Islamic thinker Fahmi Howeidi, an Egyptian whose moderate views have earned him wide respect in the Arab and Muslim worlds.

"But if we cannot do that, we should address the media in the West, which is primarily responsible for forming the image of Muslims and Islam," he said.

Ebrahim Moosa, an Islamic expert at Duke University in South Carolina, said US policies were partly to blame for the anger felt by many Muslims, but acknowledged that an "inter-Islamic dialogue" was sorely needed before efforts are made to improve the faith's image.

Many of the world's estimated 1.2 billion Muslims believe their religion has been attacked in the West and elsewhere since Sept. 11, and that the US-led war on terror is really a crusade against their 1,400-year-old faith at a time when it's experiencing a revival.

"Everybody agrees that there are other terrorists, other extremists, all over the world, whether they are Buddhist, Hindus or Christians," Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said in an interview last week with The Associated Press. *AP*

AP

TRAIN COLLISION
Train personnel examine the damages after two trains collided in Torredembarra, 90 km southwest of Barcelona, on March 30, killing at least three people and injuring nearly 90.

Afghanistan holy site draws pilgrims, rumors

TOLUQAN, Afghanistan—Rumor was that Mullah Mohammed Omar—one of the world's most wanted fugitives—showed up in a six-vehicle convoy and prayed at the blue-domed shrine here earlier this week.

Not true, the caretaker said with a smile.

"He couldn't stay here. He doesn't have a place to shelter," Mullah Abdul Salaam said of the ousted Taliban leader, once an occasional visitor to the Muslim holy site in southern Afghanistan.

The US bombing campaign that destroyed his movement put an end to those pilgrimages.

A trip now to the shrine about an hour's drive west of Kandahar, where the US military has a base, would be a bold venture for Omar. Recent reports from local Afghan officials put the associate of Osama bin Laden farther north, in the mountains of neighboring Uruzgan province.

Dotted about southern Afghanistan, there are many shrines like the one at Toluqan, a scattering of compounds of baked earth lined with vineyards and fields of wheat and opium poppies, which will be ready for harvest in April.

For all its isolation, this sanctuary—the burial place two centuries ago of Mullah Hassan Akhwand, a revered holy man—is closely in tune with the tumult and hardship of Afghanistan's recent past.

The place attracts more than just rumors in nearby Kandahar about the latest Omar sighting. Thousands of Afghans who have fled drought or persecution in their hometowns live in the dry riverbed a couple of hundred meters away.

They are all members of the dominant ethnic Pashtun community, and some came all the way from northern Afghanistan, where they allege minority Uzbeks and Hazaras forced them from their homes after the downfall of the Taliban.

"'You are Taliban because you are Pashtun,'" Mohammed Kasim quoted the gunmen who stole his livestock in the north as saying.

The Taliban were mostly Pashtuns, and the Afghan military alliance that ousted them from the north with the help of US air raids was made up of a handful of loosely aligned ethnic minorities.

A Pashtun man who fled his home near the northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif three months ago said gunmen had pounded on his door.

The man, Agha Ahmed Jan, watched from upstairs but did not let them in. He said the gunmen then lobbed a grenade into the inner courtyard, killing his two young children. *AP*

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Powerful quake jolts Taiwan, leaving 2 dead

TAIPEI—Two people were killed and more than 10 injured as Taiwan was shaken Sunday by a powerful earthquake that started fires, cracked walls and toppled construction site cranes, authorities and media reports said.

The Central Weather Bureau said the magnitude 6.8 quake was centered near Hualien, 180 km east of Taipei. It struck at 2:53 p.m. (0653 GMT) and lasted for nearly a minute, the bureau said.

In Taipei, buildings rocked back and forth, cracks appeared in walls and startled people ran from homes and churches. State radio reported several small fires.

Two people were killed and 11 injured when two cranes fell from the 60th floor of a high-rise building under construction, police said. Among those hurt was a woman whose hand was severed, witnesses said.

The building—the Taipei Financial Center—will be Taipei's tallest when completed, towering over 100 stories high.

A four-story building in downtown Taipei half-collapsed, leaning out toward the street. Vice Mayor Ou Chin-teh told reporters that police were trying to rescue seven people believed trapped inside.

Scaffolding fell from another skyscraper under construction in eastern Taipei, local media reported.

Seismologists said the quake was relatively shallow compared with most that hit Taiwan. It was felt throughout the island and was centered about 10 km below ground.

Wang Mei-man was on the third floor of her brothers' office in downtown Taipei when the quake struck. The entire room shook, including the coffee table and household appliances, she said.

"I was scared to death," she said.

Tremors frequently shake the island, but most cause little or no damage. However, a magnitude 7.6 earthquake in September 1999 killed 2,378 people and destroyed more than 40,000 homes. *AP*

REUTERS

AND THE WINNER IS...

The winner of the annual Miss Tiffany Pageant, 26-year-old Thanyaporn Thanyasira (center), poses with first runner-up Panrung Jurawattankul (left) and second runner-up Warinthorn Worattanasirikul in the Thai resort city of Pattaya on March 30. The pageant, open only for transsexuals or transvestites, has become a popular event in Thailand and is broadcast live on television across the country.

Riot police clash with demonstrators

WOOMERA, Australia—Riot police on horseback clashed with protesters Sunday as demonstrations continued outside a remote detention center for refugees.

At least three protesters were knocked to the ground by horses and three more were taken into custody as police barred their approach to the Woomera Detention Center.

Police hunting for 11 or 12 refugees who fled the center in a mass breakout Friday warned that the escapees could die of dehydration if they hide in the parched desert around Woomera, a former missile-testing base where 300 mostly Afghan and Iraqi refugees are being held.

"This is a desert area. These people had no knowledge of it," said Superintendent Wayne Bristow. "Let's forget about the semantics of the rights and wrongs of this. The bottom line is we are talking about people's safety and welfare."

Immigration Minister Philip Ruddock said 11 of the 50 refugees who escaped Friday were still on the run. An immigration official said 12 were still free.

Friday's breakout happened as police clashed with hundreds of protesters demonstrating against Australia's policy of detaining illegal immigrants in remote camps while their applications for asylum are processed—a process that can take up to three years.

Prime Minister John Howard said the protests would not sway his government.

"Our policy will not be intimidated into change by this kind of behavior," he said.

The escapees, including three children, scaled razor-wire-topped fences and cut through them with bolt cutters provided by some of the demonstrators.

Sixteen protesters were arrested Friday on charges of harboring the escapees. Police arrested another four late Saturday afternoon when they broke through a fence to reach an outer wall of the center. *AP*

Viet refugees allowed to go to America

ANG SNUOL, Cambodia—Cambodia said Sunday it would allow Vietnamese refugees to be resettled in the United States, ending the uncertainty over the fate of nearly 1,000 ethnic tribespeople who say they fled persecution by Vietnam's communist government.

The Cambodia government has decided to let the refugees "live in the United States on a voluntary basis," Prime Minister Hun Sen said.

Those who prefer to go back to Vietnam can live there "with safety and dignity," he told a public rally during the inauguration of a Buddhist temple in this village outside Phnom Penh, the Cambodian capital.

Most of the refugees have already said they don't want to go back, and want to live in the United States.

Last week, the United States reiterated its longstanding offer to take the Christian tribespeople, known as Montagnards, after a United Nations plan to repatriate them to Vietnam collapsed on March 22.

But the US plan has remained in a limbo pending an approval by Cambodia, without which the Montagnards would not be able to leave the country.

Hun Sen said that allowing the refugees to leave Cambodia would bring an end to "the very serious headache" caused to his government.

The 905 Vietnamese are currently living in two UN-administered camps in northeastern Cambodia. They fled their villages in Vietnam's Central Highlands after the communist government crushed protests in February 2001 over encroachment of traditional tribal lands, economic discrimination and religious restrictions.

"Generally speaking whoever refuses to go to Vietnam, 100 percent must go to America," Hun Sen said, adding that the camps will be closed down after the resettlement. *AP*

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Dubai court rules husband has right to beat wife

DUBAI—An appeals court in Dubai has ruled that a husband has the right to beat his wife in order to discipline her, provided the beatings are not so severe that they damage her bones or deform her body, the Gulf News daily reported Sunday.

But the Dubai Court of Cassation, the highest court in the emirate, also ruled that a wife has the right to demand a divorce if her husband "injures her, either by word or action," the paper reported.

The court's decision came in a case where a woman had petitioned for a divorce on grounds that her husband beat her with an electric cable or a stick, and slammed her head against the wall, the English-language paper said.

The court ordered the husband to pay 5,000 dirhams ($1,369) claimed by the wife as the remainder of her dowry, as well as a monthly alimony of 2,000 dirhams ($547). It also granted her custody of the couple's two children.

The newspaper did not identify the couple, and court officials could not be reached for comment.

Dubai is the most liberal of the seven emirates that make up the United Arab Emirates. ***AP***

Koizumi calls for new laws to combat political scandals

TOKYO—Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi tried to reassure an increasingly skeptical public that he would clean up politics, calling for new legislation that harshly penalizes lawmakers who misuse donations and public funds.

"I think we need an unprecedented legal response," Koizumi told TV national broadcaster NHK in an hourlong interview aired Sunday.

"The current situation just won't do if we are to eliminate mistrust in politics," he said. He didn't elaborate on a possible proposal.

The government has been hit by recent political scandals that have embroiled three influential lawmakers, including longtime Koizumi ally Koichi Kato, who has been accused by the Japanese media of using political donations for personal expenses.

The scandals have tarnished Koizumi's credentials as a reformist and fueled doubts about his ability to deliver on his pledges to end back-room politics and orchestrate an economic turnaround.

On Sunday, Koizumi appeared to be distancing himself from Kato.

"If what's been reported turns out to be true then I will be extremely disappointed and surprised," Koizumi told NHK.

In the interview, Koizumi also said Japan would continue to press North Korea to resolve differences stemming partly from the North's alleged abduction of Japanese nationals.

"We're working from various angles to get North Korea to understand the need for dialogue and negotiation," Koizumi said.

"As we continue to apply the greatest effort possible to bring it to the negotiating table, we will also raise the issue of the kidnappings."

Japan accuses North Korea of abducting 11 Japanese citizens, mostly in the 1970s and 1980s. Tokyo says they were taken to the communist country most likely to help train spies in Japanese language and culture. North Korea denies the accusations, but has said it would conduct a search for missing persons.

On Friday, Japan's health minister postponed a meeting scheduled for this weekend in Singapore with his North Korean counterpart, saying that he had been told the North needed more time to prepare.

The meeting, between Chikara Sakaguchi and North Korean health minister, Kim Su Hak, would have been the first formal contact between the two countries since discussions in Beijing in October 200 over possible diplomatic ties. ***AP***

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, April 1, 2002
Octave of Easter
1st Reading: Acts 2:14, 22-32
Gospel: Mt 28:8-15

The women left the tomb at once in holy fear, yet with great joy, and they ran to tell the news to the disciples.

Suddenly, Jesus met them on the way and said, "Peace." The women approached him, embraced his feet and worshiped him. But Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to set out for Galilee; there they will see me."

While the women were on their way, the guards returned to the city and some of them reported to the chief priests all that had happened. The chief priests met with the Jewish authorities and decided to give the soldiers a good sum of money, with this instruction, "Say that his disciples came by night while you were asleep, and stole the body of Jesus. If Pilate comes to know of this, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." The soldiers accepted the money and did as they were told. This story has circulated among the Jews until this day.

Commentary

A week of joy—each day is a new encounter with our risen Lord. First, the women. Who were they? Luke tells us (8:1-3) that they were travelling companions of Jesus in his missionary journeys. In all the gospel narratives they are there, at the cross, the burial and on Easter morning. They are the first witnesses that Jesus is risen. They find the tomb empty, and the Angel of the Lord enlightens them with faith to realize what this must mean. Caught between fear and an excess of joy, they run as fast as they can to share this with the other disciples, and as they go, whom do they meet but Jesus. And so it is with us. To whom will you go to share the good news? Don't be surprised if you meet Jesus on the way!

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SUPREME COURT GUIDELINES

CIVIL LAW (PROPERTY)—Lien and encumbrance—A lien is a qualified right or a proprietary interest, which may be exercised over the property of another. It is a right which the law gives to have a debt satisfied out of a particular thing. It signifies a legal claim or charge on property, either real or personal, as a collateral or security for the payment of some debt or obligation. Similarly, an encumbrance is a burden upon land, depreciative of its value, such as lien, easement or servitude, which, though adverse to (the) interest of (the) landowner, does not conflict with his conveyance of (the) land in fee. The following are considered encumbrances: A claim, lien, charge or liability attached to and binding real property; e.g., a mortgage, judgment lien, lease, security interest, easement or right of way, accrued and unpaid taxes. A lien is already an existing burden of charge on the property while a notice of *lis pendens*, as the very term connotes, is only a notice or warning that a claim or possible charge on the property is pending determination by the court. [Reference: People v. RTC 178 SCRA 299, 307-308 (1989)] [Citations omitted.] [Justice Quisum-bing, Second Division, Saburnido v. Madroño, A.C. No. 4497, September 26, 2001]

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GMA asked to withdraw Erap's 'anti-poor' memo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo inaugurates the Cordillera Freedom Monument at the Igorot Garden in Baguio City on March 30.
TOOTS SOBERANO/NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo assured officials of a group of cooperative banks here on Thursday that she will revoke an "anti-poor directive" issued by her predecessor that stopped the government from offering low-interest financing to the poor.

Deposed President Joseph Estrada issued Executive Order 138 in 2000, after government experts complained about the low returns on investments from livelihood loans coursed through the departments of trade and industry, agriculture and labor and employment.

But Estrada's directive cut into the business of the fledgling cooperative banks, which transact directly with poor communities seeking access to low interest loans for livelihood, said Leopoldo de la Cruz, executive director of the National Association of Cooperative Banks (Bankoop).

"Coop banks used to be the beneficiaries of government's direct lending programs to the poor... (We asked the President for the revocation of EO 138. She said she will do just that)," De la Cruz said.

Ms Macapagal met behind closed doors here with Bankoop officials, including its president Leonila Chavez and its chair Segundo Panchamento, on Holy Thursday.

Bankoop represents 54 cooperative banks from Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao. These banks have accumulated resources worth over P4 billion.

"It was positive. She seemed happy about our proposals," a Bankoop director told the INQUIRER after the dialogue on Thursday.

But the withdrawal of EO 138 drew mild concern from line agency officials here.

"One agency (funneled) up to P10 million to small-scale projects and beneficiaries two years ago and never got a single centavo back as repayment. In fact, we are not sure if the programs really attacked the problem," a director of a regional line agency said.

The Bankoop agenda may also run counter to Ms Macapagal's declared policies on financing.

During Ms Macapagal's New Year's Day "Report to the Nation" here, she urged a tighter rein on government financing institutions, and a more relaxed policy from private commercial banks to fast-track capital for agriculture and housing.

She said the release of agricultural loans and farmers' subsidies, as well as the financial documentation and collateral transactions required to address the backlog of 3 million housing units, had been delayed by "very conservative" policies among private banks.

The "new conservatism" of commercial banks and government financial institutions was triggered by heavy debt burdens and unredeemed mortgages since the 1997 Asian currency crisis.

This was also aggravated by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States. The attacks resulted in a partial recession in America and Japan.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI35° Lo22°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 27° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 36° Lo 24°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 35° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 21°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 25°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 25°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	HI 36° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 23°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 22°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Maricar Tolosa, PDI Research/04/01/02

ROUNDUP

Fund release urged

CANDON CITY—Sen. Manuel Villar has asked the Department of Agriculture to immediately release the P6-billion fund for irrigation to prepare for El Niño which is expected to hit the country in July. "We need to build and repair irrigation systems and to include more budget for shallow tube wells and immediately distribute these to farmers," said Villar, chair of the Senate committee on agriculture. He inspected drought-affected areas in Pangasinan and Ilocos last week.

Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Mango fest in Zambales

IBA, Zambales—Residents and tourists trooped to this province on March 22 to taste the carabao mango (*Mangifera indica*), considered the "sweetest fruit in the world" by the 1995 Guinness Book of World Records. The occasion was the Kinalabaw 2002, the five-day mango festival to recognize the contribution of carabao mangoes to the development of Zambales. Municipal agriculturist Johnny Posadas said the fruit was named after the carabao, the country's beast of burden, because of its big size.

Cesar Villa, PDI Central Luzon Bureau

2 men electrocuted

MALOLOS, Bulacan—Two members of a radio club were electrocuted Wednesday while fixing their communication facilities along the McArthur Highway here. Police said that Dante Villanueva, 51, and Arnold Cruz, 24, were putting up a steel antenna in preparation for their Lakbay Alalay (motorist assistance) program when the antenna hit a live electric wire. Witnesses said the victims were thrown several meters away due to the strong electric shock.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

3 killed in mishap

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Three persons were killed after the cargo truck they were riding in fell on a cliff in Malapatan, Sarangani on Wednesday. Police identified the victims as Maria Luz Silva, Ryan Castro and Jun Balaynon, all residents of Barangay Kinam in Malapatan. Six others were injured in the incident.

Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Libel case dismissed

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Acting Presiding Judge Antonio Lubao of the Regional Trial Court Branch 36 dismissed the libel case filed by a barangay captain against Vic Dante and David Doctolero, manager and reporter, respectively, of dxES Bombo Radyo here. The statement made by the accused cannot be considered libelous per se," an excerpt of the court's verdict stated. The case stemmed from the statements made by Dante and Doctolero in two radio programs, accusing Johnny Boy Bautista, chair of Barangay Dadiangas North here, of selling a government-owned motorcycle.

Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Marijuana farm raided

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Two suspected marijuana planters were arrested after a team from the police and the Narcotics Command raided a marijuana plantation in Barangay Conel here on Tuesday. Rolando Bangonon, 30, and Lino Mariquit, 24, residents of Barangay Upper Klinan in Polomolok, South Cotabato did not resist arrest. During interrogation, the suspects disclosed that the plantation belonged to a Boyet Salazar, also a resident of Upper Klinan.

Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

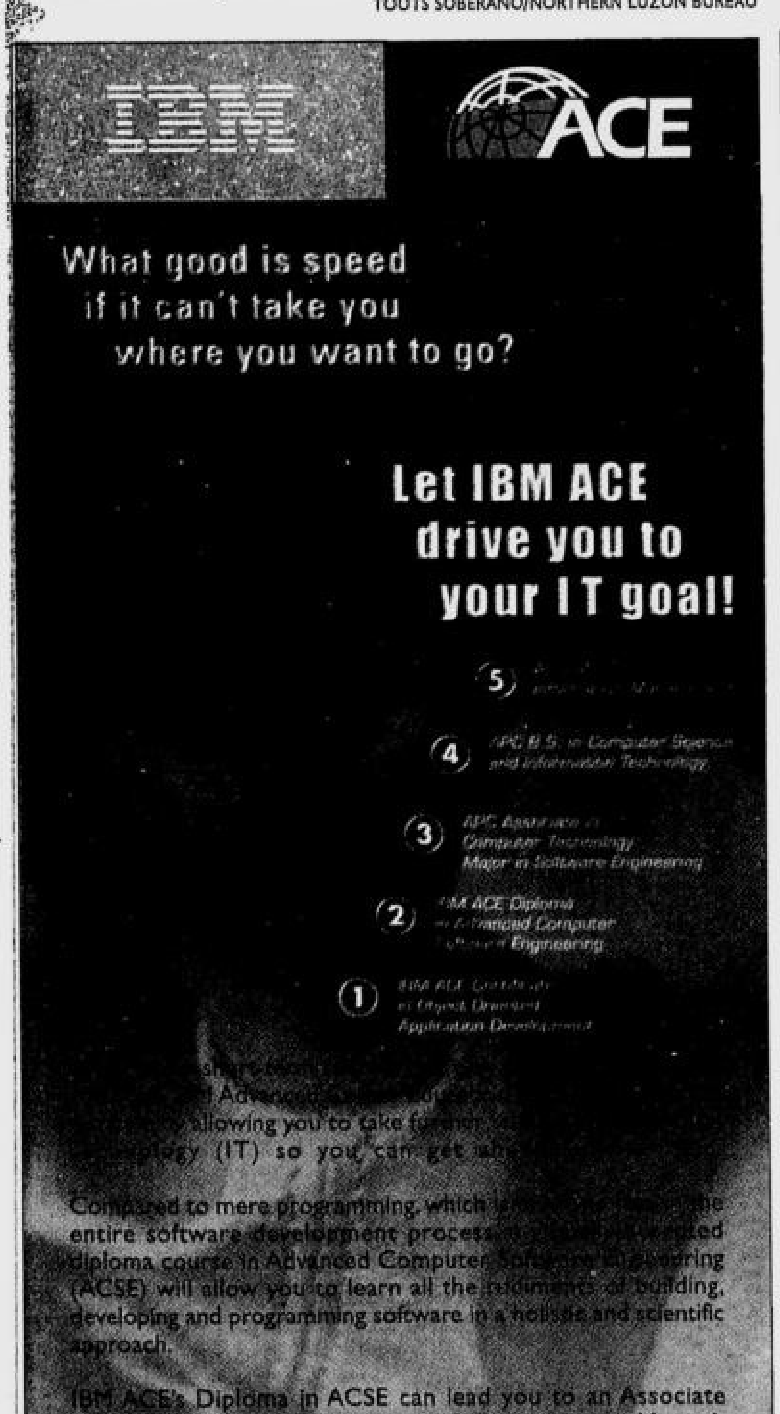
Councilor shot dead

BAUAN, Batangas—A councilor of Mabini town was shot dead Tuesday by an unidentified tricycle driver after a heated argument over the damage caused by the tricycle on the town official's car. Councilor Briccio Aldovino, 57, a resident of Barangay San Juan, Mabini, and a former police officer, was found by residents of San Miguel inside his car, lying in a pool of blood. Police revealed that Aldovino was in Barangay San Miguel when a tricycle bumped his Toyota Corolla car, which damaged the left side and the side mirror of the car. A heated argument ensued until residents heard gunshots. Aldovino died on the spot while the tricycle driver and his passenger fled. Police said a manhunt operation is now going on to find the suspect.

Mel Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Erratum

THE HEADLINE of the story on the Good Friday rituals in Pampanga, which appeared in yesterday's issue (A16, 03/31/02) should have read "17 penitents 'crucified' in Pampanga village." The quotation marks, which connote a reenactment of Jesus' crucifixion and death, were inadvertently omitted. We regret the error.



NPA burns 2 buses in Cebu City

By Kathy I. Navarro
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Two passenger buses owned by the Rough Riders Bus Co. were separately torched by armed men claiming to be members of the New People's Army in the towns of Tabuelan and San Remegio, northwest of this City.

In two separate incidents, groups of 10 and 13 suspected rebels stopped the buses and ordered their passengers to disembark before burning the buses.

Witnesses said the armed men claimed that the buses were burned down to punish the bus company's owner for failing to pay revolutionary taxes to the NPA and for allegedly failing to help victims of road accidents involving Rough Rider buses.

The management of the Rough Rider could not be immediately reached for comment.

The suspected rebels disappeared into a forested area after the bus burst into flames. No one was hurt.

Cebu police director Senior Supt. Jose Antonio Salvacion, however, said the incident was believed to be part of the NPA's celebration of its founding anniversary last March 29.

He said the police had expected this as the NPA "wanted something spectacular to happen on their anniversary."

At 2:45 a.m., the first bus bound for Cebu City from Tuburan town, 97 km from Cebu City, was burned in Sitio Kampatok, Barangay Dalid.

The bus, with 27 passengers on board, was passing through the roadside village when one of the three suspected NPA members who were seated in front ordered the driver to stop.

"I noticed he was holding a handheld radio and was saying 'we're here, we're here,' and he told me to stop," the driver, 29-year-old Vicente Labajo, said in Cebuano.

Labajo added that the rebel's companions then pulled out their guns and asked the other passengers to get off the bus. As they went down, he saw six other suspected rebels emerge from a forested area. They were carrying long firearms and wore fatigue uniforms.

The bus conductor who was the first to go down from the bus ran for help, but the suspected rebels did not bother to go after him.

"Don't be afraid, we will not hurt you. We are only after the vehicle because its owner is a human rights violator and also refused to give revolutionary tax," Labajo quoted one of the suspected rebels who were addressing the passengers.

Some of the armed men then poured gasoline on the bus and lit it. As the bus was burning, the armed group fled toward a forested, hilly area in barangay Bongon. The incident lasted about 15 minutes.

More than an hour later, another Rough Rider bus was torched in Barangay Kinawahan, San Remegio.

Its driver, Bertuldo Espinosa, 26, said he only had six passengers and did not expect that four of them were rebels. One of them was a woman.

Just 15 minutes after he left San Remegio on his way to Tabuelan, one of the four passengers poked a gun on his nape and told him to stop and leave the bus.

"We're members of the NPA. Get off this bus because we're going to burn it. Your operator is taking advantage of the poor," Espinosa quoted the man who poked a gun at him as saying in Cebuano.

When they have disembarked from the bus, Espinosa said the woman was the one who poured the gasoline and her companion burned the bus.

Espinosa said the incident did not even take five minutes and the group headed toward a nearby mountainous village.

Both drivers said the rebels, except the six who were wearing fatigue uniforms, looked like any ordinary villager.

Espinosa said they were in their 20s.

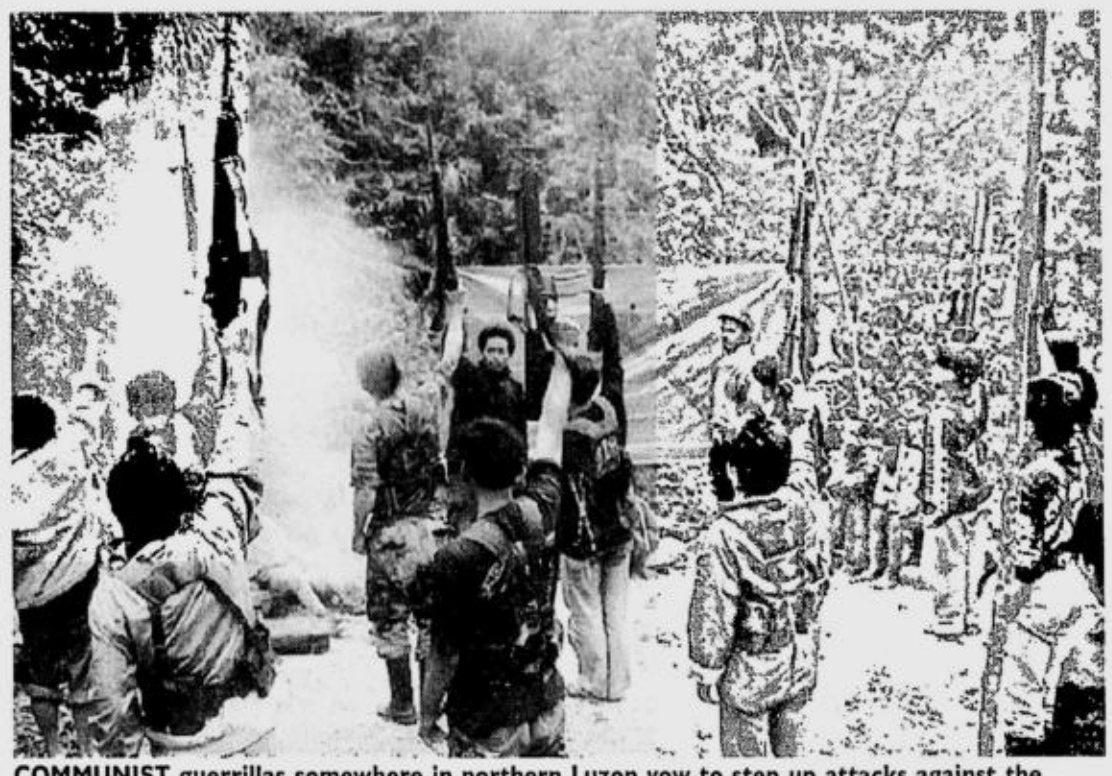
Salvacion said the provincial police force has been declared under heightened alert since last week, after they received threats that the NPA was going to attack a police station in northern Cebu.

"These atrocities undertaken by the enemy could have been resorted to in view of their failure to hit a police station, as retaliation for the capture of dissident terrorist leader Eduardo Sacamay," said Police Regional director Chief Supt. Avelino Razon Jr.

Sacamay, a top rebel leader in Central Visayas, was arrested during joint police and military operations last month.

Police and military officials from Central Command criticized the rebels for violating the SOMO agreement (suspension of military operations).

"This is all that they can do. We have heard that they lack ammunition, so they would rather burn buses," Salvacion said. ***With a report from Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau***



COMMUNIST guerrillas somewhere in northern Luzon vow to step up attacks against the Philippine government which they accuse of enlisting US help to crush the insurgency, during the 33rd founding anniversary of the New People's Army on March 29. AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

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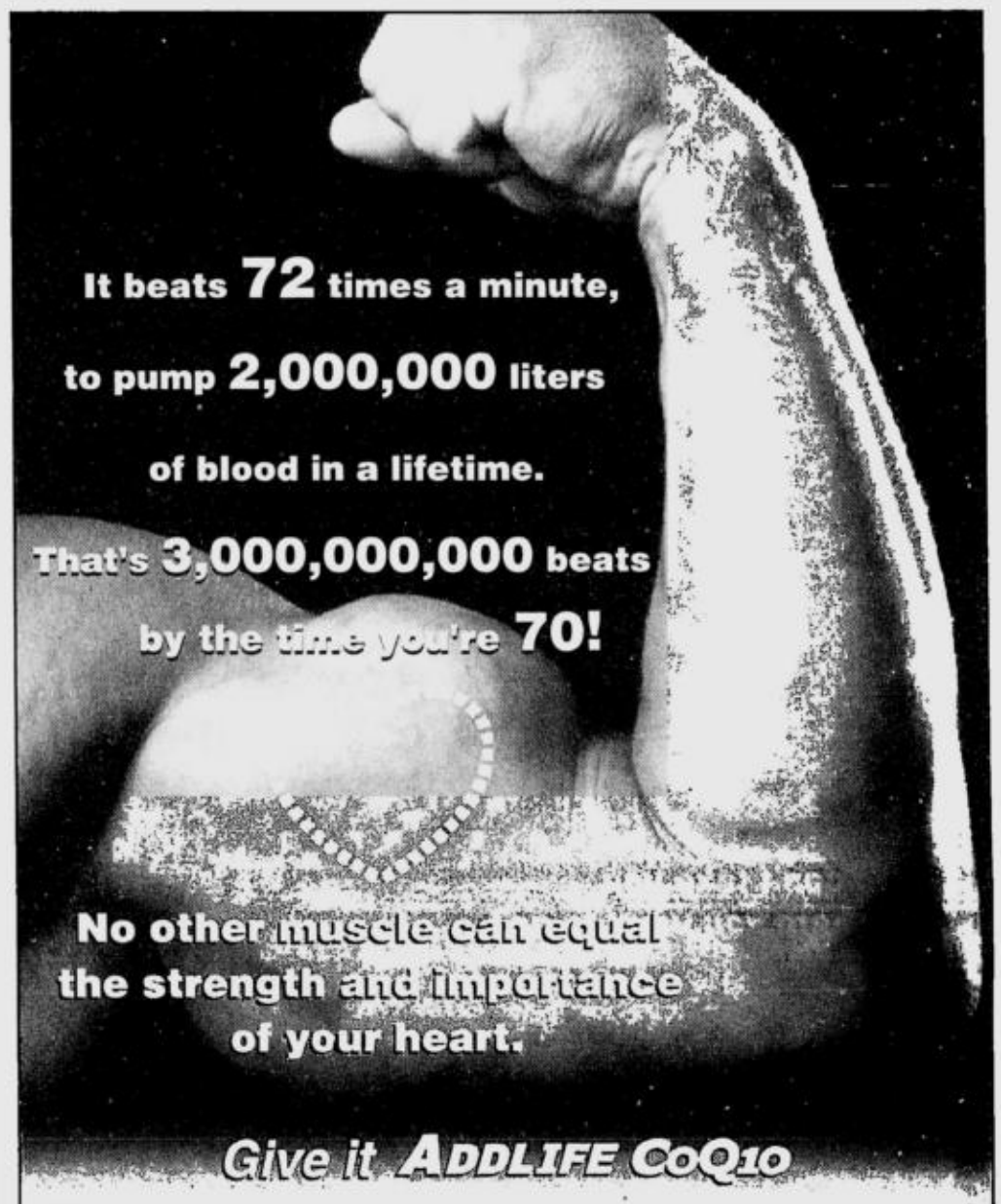

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CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), through the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (CITEM), is in search of nominees for the 16th Golden Shell Awards (GSA). The country's prestigious and most-coveted export award is given to Filipino companies excelling in the following categories:

A. For Export Manufacturers
- Design Excellence
- Marketing Excellence and/or
- Manufacturing/Production Excellence

B. For Service Exporters
- Design Excellence
- Marketing Excellence and/or
- Service Excellence

Nominations for the Rising Star Citation, recognizing companies which have introduced a relatively new product with good potential in the export market, will also be accepted.

Qualified nominees are Filipino-owned companies with a proven-track record of at least five consecutive years in exports (1997-2001), three years in the case of IT and IT-enabled services (1999-2001) and two years for the Rising Star Citation (2000-2001). These companies must have proven themselves to be good corporate citizens and with sound financial standing.

Trade associations, DTI offices, banks and other related institutions may nominate qualified exporters. Please submit the form below to:

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c/o Corporate Planning Division
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Golden Shell Pavilion, Roxas Boulevard
1300 Pasay City, Metro Manila
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Email: gsa@citem.com.ph
Contact Persons: Ms. Rowena P. Ebriega/Ms. Bernadette T. Launte

Deadline for nominations is 05 April 2002.

Name of Company _____

Export Product/Service _____

Complete Address Including Phone/Fax/Email _____

Contact Person/Designation _____

Signature over Printed Name: _____

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Agency/Association/Institution: _____

(This nomination form may be reproduced for additional nominees)

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Tels. 253-2026 / 253-2029 / 251-0361 to 63
GREENHILLS
Shoppesville Arcade, Ortigas Ave., San Juan
Tels. 721-3839 / 725-2012 / 726-3616
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Level 3 New Wing Expansion Mall
Alabang Town Center, Muntinlupa City
Tels. 809-5981 / 809-5562

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Surigao folk recall 'Caloy' destruction

By Ma. Kristina E. Cassion
PDI Mindanao Bureau

TANDAG, Surigao del Sur—In the ruins of Barangay Libas Sud in San Miguel town days after typhoon "Caloy," many people still shudder when they remember what happened after a tornado that accompanied the typhoon came to their village on March 21.

"(There was) so much death and destruction. We never thought it would ever happen. Even (typhoon) 'Nanang' in January did not wreak much havoc in our village," Nelly Ahok, a resident said.

Typhoon Caloy rampaged through 10 towns in Surigao del Sur, leaving 27 dead, with 3 persons still missing and displacing 10,754 families or 43,983 persons.

Raging waters from swollen rivers swept away 1,198 houses. Damage to infrastructure, agriculture and fisheries, was estimated to reach P98.92 million.

Sixteen of those who died were from San Miguel. The entire neighborhood of Huyon in Barangay Libas Sud was buried in mud when the tornado descended.

"It was already raining hard at around 5 p.m., when we saw a swirling black mass that spun faster and faster," Berelyn Ahok, a villager said.

Half of the mountain near Sitio Huyon was excavated by the tornado, triggering a landslide that buried the entire village.

All 10 members of the Monteroso family were killed. Large trees and huge boulders swept away by the six feet deep rushing muddy water thrashed into village houses, rendering 29 families homeless and converting hectares of riceland into a wasteland.

Survivors' tale

"We knew there was a typhoon but we were complacent since we have not experienced much destruction from past typhoons," said Ruben Insyo, 52.

Ruben was in his farm near his house, when heavy rains fell. He immediately fetched his family and transferred them to his neighbor's house that was sturdier.

"All I could do was wait and pray for my family's safety," he said.

Fortunately, Ruben's house suffered a slight damage but Pomperio Baguol, a neighbor, was not as lucky.

His house, made from light materials, was easily swept downstream.

"I did not leave my house immediately but when the water already reached our floor I had to evacuate with my family," Pomerio said.

With his wife and two kids, Pomerio swam his way to his mother-in-law's house, which is several feet across.

The strong current nearly drowned Biboy, his 3-year-old son.

Judith Estrada, 23, was attending the closing ceremony of the barangay's primary school where her son was enrolled, when it started raining.

She grabbed her two children and immediately ran toward the river bend where their house was located.

Inside her housin, she noticed that the river was swelling.

She then put her two sons, aged 6 and 3 on top of the roof. Later, the current became so strong that it swept away their house, but she was able to put her sons in an ice bucket.

Towing the ice bucket, Judith swam to safety, unmindful of the trees and huge boulders that continuously struck her.

"My mind was focused on my kids only, so I could not feel any pain," she said.

When the flood subsided, the residents were horrified to see the destruction in their village.

Mud covered a large track of fields where their houses and farms used to stand.

"Being alive after the tragedy is not the end of it. (Because) how can we survive when most of us depend on farming alone?" a farmer lamented.

Although relief goods came pouring in, questions on how to go about rebuilding their lives remain unanswered.

For most residents especially the children, the devastation that Caloy brought would always haunt their days.

Trekkers hit Mt. Apo closure

DAVAO CITY—The Department of Tourism in Southern Mindanao has been swamped with inquiries and complaints from trekkers and tourists regarding the closure of Mt. Apo.

Roger Layson, assistant regional director of DOT in Southern Mindanao, said his office has been receiving telephone calls inquiring when Mt. Apo will be open to the public.

The Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) has been thinking of extending the closure of the country's highest peak for five more years.

"The hard-line trekkers are the ones complaining but we can't do anything. We leave that to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. We are only for promoting the area," he said.

The public was denied access to Mt. Apo starting July 1, 2000 after PAMB and various local government units surrounding it passed a resolution closing down the national park because it is already "dilapidated and bedecked with trashes brought by unscrupulous visitors and mountain climbers."

Mt. Apo is included in DOT's ecotourism project encouraging climbers to plant trees before climbing any protected area. A number of clean-up campaigns were sponsored by local governments and organized mountaineering groups since the closure.

Layson proposed the deployment of more forest guards and volunteers to secure Mt. Apo against hikers and trekkers and ensure that the climbers have permits from PAMB.

Layson said posts should be set up in the five trails leading to Mt. Apo to warn hikers against climbing the protected areas.

"This needs logistics and manpower. Volunteers from the barangays should be tapped to help in this effort," he said.

The government should also be able to provide alternative livelihood for the people living in the area who serve as porters before the mountain was closed off to climbers, he added.

The porters, he said, could be hired as watchers to warn climbers who may have passed the station posts from proceeding.

In Ozamiz City, 30 mountaineers coming from northwestern Mindanao started their trek along the Malindang ranges last week, in a bid to drum up concern over the destructive effects of irresponsible mountain tours.

Local mountaineering group Society of Active Adventurers for Eco-Mountaineering hosts the climb, in Cooperation with the Malindang Mountaineering Alliance. ***Joel B. Escovilla and Ryan Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Farmers quit planting gmelina in Apayao, women's study says

BAGUIO CITY—Farmers in Apayao have decided to stop the commercial propagation of gmelina trees in the province after failing to earn from three decades of planting the trees, a study said.

The gmelina tree, called the "million-peso tree" by logging firms in Apayao, have brought economic sufferings to farmers in Conner town, according to the study "No truth in becoming a millionaire by planting gmelina."

The Cordillera Women's Education and Resource Center (CWERC) conducted the study.

Vernie Yocogan-Diano, CWERC organizing committee member, said farmers in Barangay Karikitan in Conner revealed in a workshop in September last year that they would stop planting gmelina and uproot the trees that they had planted.

"These farmers realized that there is no truth to (the pitch of) becoming a millionaire by planting gmelina trees. They decided to replace these trees with crops, like corn, to recover from the financial losses that they have experienced since the 1970s," Yocogan-Diano told the INQUIRER.

The study said logging companies in Apayao introduced gmelina seedlings to farmers in the early 1970s to reforest areas that they had logged.

The logging firms had promised the villagers to buy the trees at P18.50 per board foot when these are harvested after eight to 10 years, the study said.

Yocogan said this enticed the farmers to deforest and clear more areas in Conner for gmelina.

When the farmers began selling their produce, the logging firms bought it only for P4.50 per board foot, way below the promised price.

A farmer said she only received P800 for 15 full-grown gmelina trees.

"Aside from the low price, branches and slabs were taken for free contrary to what was promised them that these would be bought for paper production," it said.

The regional Department of Environment and Natural Resources asked the Apayao farmers not to give up hope and look for alternative uses of the tree.

Eufronia Muyano, a DENR forester, said the farmers should reconsider their decision.

"I hope the uprooting would not be massive. They should choose only the old trees. Planting gmelina is one way of hastening reforestation and it can also prevent soil erosion during floods," Muyano said.

The study said the farmers also discovered that intercropping was impossible as the crops that they grew alongside the gmelina died because of the trees' acidic component that affected the soil. But Muyano said the soil's acidity can be neutralized, making the soil fit for other crops.

Gmelina, which originated in Indonesia, was among the tree species introduced to farmers of Cagayan Valley and Cordillera for reforestation and commercial farming. The tree is used in paper production. ***Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

WOW PHILIPPINES

TOUR PACKAGES *for Summer*

AS LOW AS

P1,050.00*

** for Bantayan Island-Cebu, Butuan & Surigao Packages*

From MANILA

BACOLOD - P1,400.00 3D/2N
Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at a hotel
- 2 breakfasts
- Roundtrip airport transfers

Optional Sights & Activities: City Tour, Silay Heritage Tour
Add: Roundtrip airfare : from P5,386/person
Roundtrip sea fare : from P2,180/person

BAGUIO - P2,808.00 3D/2N
Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at El Cielito Inn
- 2 breakfasts

Optional Sights & Activities: Mines View Park, Silver Shop, Burnham Park and local market
Add: Roundtrip airfare : from P2,970/person
Roundtrip bus fare : from P440/person

Inspiring Baguio - P5,980.00 3D/2N with private transportation

BANAUE - P1,750.00 3D/2N
Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at Banaue Hotel
- 2 breakfasts
- Viewpoint and Hiwang Tour

Optional Sights & Activities: Banga-an Village, Batad Village, Bontoc & Sagada

Weekend Seat-in-Coach Package (including Transportation) also available:
3D/2N = P4,808.00/person
4D/3N = P6,900.00/person w/Sagada

BICOL
Daet - P1,750.00 3D/2N
Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at a hotel
- 2 set breakfasts
- Transfers from bus terminal

Optional Sights & Activities: Bagasbas Beach, Pineapple Plantation
Add: Roundtrip bus fare : from P880/person

Legazpi Tours - P3,504.00 3D/2N
Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at Casa Blanca Hotel or similar hotel
- 2 breakfasts
- Roundtrip airport transfers
- Legazpi City Tour

Add: Roundtrip airfare : from P3,364/person
Roundtrip bus fare : from P964/person

Sorsogon (Donsol) P5,299.00 3D/2N
Butanding "Whaleshark" Encounter
Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at Fernando's Hotel
- Whaleshark interaction with Lunch
- Registration Fee at Donsol
- Pick up from Bus station

Add: Roundtrip airfare (MNL-LGP-MNL) : from P5,364/person
Roundtrip bus fare: from P1,072.00/person

BOHOL
Balicasag Island Dive Resort P2,850.00 3D/2N
Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at Balicasag Island Dive Resort
- 2 breakfasts
- Roundtrip Tagbilaran-Balicasag Island transfers

Optional Sights & Activities: St. Joseph Cathedral, Bohol National Museum, Tarsilso Market
Add: Roundtrip airfare : from P4,948/person
Roundtrip sea fare : from P3,288/person

Bohol Chocolate Hills P3,750.00 3D/2N
Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at a resort
- 2 breakfasts
- Roundtrip airport transfers
- Bohol countryside and Chocolate Hills tour with lunch on River Cruise

Add: Roundtrip airfare : from P4,948/person
Roundtrip sea fare : from P3,288/person

BORACAY - P3,200.00 3D/2N
Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at a resort
- 2 breakfasts
- Roundtrip transfers

Optional Sights & Activities: Island hopping and scuba diving
Add: Roundtrip airfare: from P5,650/person
Roundtrip ferry (Caticlan-Boracay-Caticlan): from P60/person

* BUTUAN - P1,050.00 3D/2N
Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at Almont Hotel
- 2 breakfasts
- Roundtrip airport transfers

Optional Sights & Activities: City tour, Cabodbaran and Magallanes tour, Agusan River cruise
Add: Roundtrip airfare: from P7,784/person
Roundtrip sea fare: from P2,592/person
Roundtrip bus fare: from P2,391/person

CAGAYAN DE ORO - P1,680.00 3D/2N
Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at Lauremar Resort or at a city hotel
- 2 set breakfasts
- Roundtrip airport transfers

Optional Sights & Activities: Whitewater River rafting, Canopy walk, Malasag Gardens, Del Monte Plantation, River Tubing, Camiguin Island Extension, Duka Bay Dive
Add: Roundtrip airfare: from P7,124/person
Roundtrip sea fare via WGSA : from P3,858/person
Roundtrip bus fare: from P2,695/person

CAMIGUIN - P5,500.00 3D/2N
Eco-dev & Homestay
Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights (1 night homestay /1 night at a resort)
- 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, and 2 dinners
- Roundtrip transfers either from/to Camiguin airstrip (SEAIR) or from/to Benoni Wharf
- Full day tours including Cultural Interaction, Demo on cassava puto making, tablea chocolate, Nito handicraft, Coconut oil, Corn feeds, and others.
- Island tours - Trek to Tuasan Falls, Sunken cemetery, Church ruins, Stations of the Cross

Add: Roundtrip airfare: from P7,124/person
Roundtrip transfers: (CDO-Balingoan/CDO) P2,602/van
Roundtrip sea fare via WGSA : from P3,858/person
Roundtrip bus fare: from P2,695/person

CEBU - P3,500.00 3D/2N
Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at a hotel
- 2 breakfasts
- Cebu City tour (Fort San Pedro, Magellan's Cross, Basilica Minore del Sto. Niño, Casa Gorordo Museum, Taoist Temple)

Add: Roundtrip airfare: from P5,658/person
Roundtrip sea fare: from P2,162/person
Roundtrip bus fare: from P2,218/person

* *Bantayan Island*
Non aircon room-P1,050.00 3D/2N
Aircon room-P1,958.00 3D/2N
Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at a resort
- 2 breakfasts
- Roundtrip airport transfers

Add: Roundtrip airfare (Manila-Cebu-Manila): from P5,650/person
Cebu-Bantayan-Cebu: from P1,980/person
Roundtrip sea fare(Manila-Cebu-Manila): from P2,163/person
Roundtrip bus fare(Manila-Cebu-Manila): from P2,218/person
Cebu City-Hagnaya Wharf-Cebu City: from P300/person
Hagnaya Wharf-Sn. Fe Wharf-Hagnaya Wharf: from P150/person

COTABATO - P3,380.00 3D/2N
Cotabato City Beckons
Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at Pacific Heights Hotel or similar hotel
- 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 1 dinner
- Roundtrip airport transfers

Optional Sights & Activities: City Tour, Sultan Kudarat Tour
Add: Roundtrip airfare: from P7,784/person

DAPITAN *(Dakak)* - P2,385.00 3D/2N
Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at Dakak Beach Resort
- 2 breakfasts
- Roundtrip airport transfers

Optional Sights & Activities: Aqua Sports & Dapitan City Tour
Add: Roundtrip airfare: from P4,518/person

DAVAO - P2,300.00 3D/2N
Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at Barcelo Pearl Farm or Waterfront Insular
- 2 breakfasts
- Roundtrip airport transfers

Optional Sights & Activities: Aldevinco, Davao Museum, Crocodile Farm, San Pedro Church, public market
Add: Roundtrip airfare: from P7,124/person
Roundtrip sea fare: from P3,528/person
Roundtrip bus fare: from P2,858/person

DUMAGUETE - P2,000.00 3D/2N
Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at a hotel
- 2 breakfasts
- Roundtrip airport transfers

Optional Sights & Activities: Dolphin watching in Bais City
Add: Roundtrip airfare: from P5,658/person
Roundtrip sea fare: from P2,658/person

ILOILO - P1,200.00 3D/2N
Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at Barcelo Sarabia Manor or similar hotel
- 2 breakfasts
- Roundtrip airport transfers

Optional Sights & Activities: City tour
Add: Roundtrip airfare: from P5,386/person
Roundtrip sea fare: from P2,650/person

LAGUNA/RIZAL - P2,200.00 2D/1N
Weekend Package
Inclusions:
- 2 days/1 night at a hotel
- 1 breakfast
- Private transportation
- Visit to Antipolo Church, Pakil (Our Lady of Turumba), Blanco Museum, Nemiranda Gallery, Pacheco Gallery, Paete Woodcraft

Optional Sights & Activities: Visit to Lumban Embroidery (boat ride P580/person)

LAOAG/VIGAN - P2,850.00 3D/2N
Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at Fort Ilocandia
- 2 breakfasts
- Roundtrip transfers from Laoag Airport or Laoag bus terminal
- Vigan tour
- Free entrance to Casino

Optional Sights & Activities: Pagudpud Tour - P750
Laoag Tour - P650
Add: Roundtrip airfare: from P4,400/person
Roundtrip bus fare: from P1,000/person

3D/2N with airfare =P3,690.00/person
4D/3N with airfare =P5,190.00/person

LEYTE - P1,650.00 3D/2N
Enchanted Eastern Visayas
Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at MacArthur Hotel
- 2 breakfasts
- Roundtrip airport transfers

Optional Sights & Activities: Sohoton Cave, Marabut Marine Park, Sto. Niño Shrine and public market
Add: Roundtrip airfare: from P5,760/person
Roundtrip bus fare: from P1,716/person

MARINDUQUE - P1,900.00 3D/2N
Sea, Sand & Spa
Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at a hotel
- 2 breakfasts
- Roundtrip airport transfers
- Whole day tour with lunch at Gaspar Island, Sulphur Springs and Susana Hot Springs

Add: Roundtrip airfare: from P2,475.00/person
Roundtrip bus/ferry fare: from P600.00/person

MINDORO, PUERTO GALERA P3,188.00 3D/2N
Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at Coco Beach
- 2 breakfasts
- Roundtrip airconditioned tourist bus
- Roundtrip ferry service

PALAWAN
Busuanga WaterSports (Northern Palawan) P6,000.00 3D/2N
Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at Maricaban Bay
- Full board meal
- Roundtrip transfers by land & boat from Busuanga
- 1 hour use of sit-in kayak

Add: Roundtrip airfare: from P5,068/person
Roundtrip sea fare: from P2,298/person

Club Noah's Ark Floating Inn - P5,450.00 3D/2N
Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at Club Noah's Ark Floating Inn
- 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners
- Roundtrip boat transfers
- Complimentary house coffee or tea
- Resort programmed activities
- Use of marine sports and resort facilities
- Services of an activity coordinator

Add: Roundtrip airfare: from P7,928/person

Coron - P6,400.00 3D/2N
Weekend Sallaway (Friday-Monday)
Inclusions:
- Roundtrip passage (2 nights on WG&A and 1 night at Dive Link)
- Full board meal
- On site transfers
- Coron Island tour, Kayangan Lake, Maquinit Hot Springs, Gutob Bay Island Hopping, Kayaking

Dos Palmas - P12,700.00 3D/2N
Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at Dos Palmas
- 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners
- Roundtrip airfare via Air Philippines
- Welcome drink, scheduled roundtrip land and boat transfers (city-resort-city)
- Scheduled lunch at nearby picnic sites
- Complimentary coffee or tea
- Speedboat transfer to snorkelling and picnic sites, use of facilities, snorkels, kayaks, fins, jacuzzi

Puerto Princesa - P1,800.00 3D/2N
Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at a hotel
- 2 breakfasts
- Roundtrip transfers

Optional Sights & Activities: Palawan Museum, Crocodile Farming Institute, city market, War Memorial, Cathedral, St. Paul Subterranean National Park
Add: Roundtrip airfare: from P6,596/person
Roundtrip sea fare: from P2,180/person

PAMPANGA - P3,950.00 3D/2N
Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at a hotel
- 2 breakfasts
- Roundtrip transfers Manila/Clark/Manila
- Rolling Tour of Angeles City & Clark

Optional Sights & Activities: Mt. Pinatubo Eco Tour

PANGASINAN - P1,650.00 3D/2N
Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at San Fabian Resort or Villa Jireh Resort Hotel
- 2 breakfasts

Optional Sights & Activities: Our Lady of Manaoag, Señor Divino Tesoro Church, Lingayen Gulf Memorial, Hundred Islands, swimming, shopping
Add: Roundtrip bus fare: from P450/person

ROXAS CITY - P1,650.00 3D/2N
Sea Food Capital
Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at Baia Norte Beach Club
- 2 breakfasts
- Roundtrip airport transfers

Optional Sights & Activities: Arq Panublion, City Plaza, City Hall, Immaculate Concepcion Cathedral, Capitol Bldg., Rozas Display Center, Sto. Monica Church, Panay Bell
Add: Roundtrip airfare: from P5,694/person
Roundtrip sea fare: from P2,100/person

SUBIC BAY/OLONGAPO - P1,388.00 2D/1N
"Make it this Weekend"
- 2 days/1 night at Subic Int'l. Hotel - P1,388.00
- 3 days/2 nights at Subic Int'l. Hotel- P3,235.00

Inclusions:
- with breakfast(s)
- Roundtrip airconditioned transportation
- Subic Base Tour, Shopping

* SURIGAO - P1,050.00 3D/2N
Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at Tavern or similar hotel
- 2 breakfasts
- Roundtrip transfers from Surigao Airport or bus terminal

Optional Sights & Activities: Siargao extension, Day-Asan Floating Village, Sagisi Island, Mabua Pebble Beach, Island hopping, Slop Caves
Add: Roundtrip airfare: from P8,024/person
Roundtrip sea fare: from P3,480/person
Roundtrip bus fare: from P2,065/person

TAGAYTAY/TAAL HERITAGE TOUR - P4,400.00 2D/1N
Weekend
Inclusions:
- 2 days/1 night at Tagaytay Picnic Grove
- 1 breakfast
- Taal Heritage Tour (Leon Apacible Historical Landmark, Marcela Marino Agoncillo Museum & Monument, Basilica of San Martin de Tours, Church of Our Lady of Caysasay, shopping for native products and delicacies)
- Tagaytay City Tour (People's Park, Japanese Garden, Mushroom Burger Restaurant & Plantation, Residence Inn Mini Zoo, Flower Farm)
- Private transportation

TUGUEGARAO - P5,000.00 2D/1N
Whitewater Kayaking and Rapelling
Inclusions:
- 2 days/1 night at a hotel
- 1 breakfast, 2 lunches, 1 dinner
- All equipment necessary (kayaks, rafts, helmets, lifevest)
- Travel insurance coverage of P100,000
- Transportation in and around Tuguegarao City

Optional Sights & Activities: Callao & Sierra Caves, Pinacanauan and Chico River Rapids, bat cave, whitewater kayaking, rapelling
Add: Roundtrip airfare: from P5,254/person
Roundtrip bus fare: from P600/person

ZAMBOANGA -P1,950.00 3D/2N
City of Flowers
Inclusions:
- 3 days/2 nights at a hotel
- 2 breakfasts
- Roundtrip airport transfers

Optional Sights & Activities: Taluksangay tour, Pasonanca Park, Rio Hondo Village, Fort Pilar, Yakan Weaving Village
Add: Roundtrip airfare: from P7,124/person
Roundtrip seafare: from P2,970/person

From CEBU

(same itinerary and inclusions as indicated in the Manila packages)

BACOLOD - P1,400.00 3D/2N
Roundtrip airfare: from P3,384/person
Roundtrip bus fare : from P414/person

BANTAYAN - P1,050.00 3D/2N
Roundtrip airfare: from P1,980/person
Roundtrip bus fare : from P200/person

BOHOL - P2,850.00 3D/2N
Roundtrip airfare: from P594/person
Roundtrip sea fare: from P220/person

BORACAY - P3,200.00 3D/2N
Roundtrip airfare : from P4,378/person
Roundtrip ferry : from P60/person

CAGAYAN DE ORO - P1,680.00 3D/2N
Roundtrip airfare : from P3,364/person

CAMIGUIN - P5,500.00 3D/2N
Roundtrip airfare : from P2,860/person
Roundtrip sea fare: from P715/person

DAPITAN *(Dakak)* - P2,385.00 3D/2N
Roundtrip airfare: from P3,718/person
Roundtrip sea fare: from P1,705/person

DAVAO - P2,300.00 3D/2N
Roundtrip airfare: from P4,946/person
Roundtrip sea fare: from P2,167/person
Roundtrip bus fare: from P948/person

DUMAGUETE - P2,000.00 3D/2N
Roundtrip sea fare: from P1,100/person

ILOILO - P1,200.00 3D/2N
Roundtrip airfare: from P3,850/person
Roundtrip sea fare: from P760/person

LEYTE - P1,650.00 3D/2N
Roundtrip airfare: from P2,970/person
Roundtrip sea fare: from P462/person
Roundtrip bus fare: from P328/person

SURIGAO - P1,050.00 3D/2N
Roundtrip airfare: from P2,374/person
Roundtrip sea fare: from P803/person
Roundtrip bus fare: from P404/person

ZAMBOANGA - P1,950.00 3D/2N
Roundtrip airfare: from P5,827/person

From DAVAO

BACOLOD - P1,400.00 3D/2N
Roundtrip airfare (Davao-Cebu): from P4,946/person
(Cebu-Bacolod): P3,384/person
Roundtrip sea fare (Cebu-Bacolod): from P414/person

BOHOL - P2,850.00 3D/2N
Roundtrip airfare : (Davao-Cebu) from P4,946/person
(Cebu-Tagbilaran) : P594/person
Roundtrip sea fare (Cebu-Tagbilaran): from P220/person

BORACAY - P3,200.00 3D/2N
Roundtrip airfare (Davao-Cebu): from P4,946
(Cebu-Caticlan): from P4,378/person
Roundtrip ferry: from P60/person

BUTUAN - P1,050.00 3D/2N
Roundtrip bus fare: from P550/person

CAMIGUIN - P5,500.00 3D/2N
Roundtrip airfare (Davao-Cebu): from P4,946
(Cebu-Camiguin): from P2,860/person
Roundtrip sea fare (Cebu-Camiguin): from P715/person

CEBU - P3,500.00 3D/2N
Roundtrip airfare : from P4,946
Roundtrip sea fare : from P2,167/person

COTABATO - P3,380.00 3D/2N
Roundtrip airfare (Davao-Cebu): from P4,946/person
(Cebu-Catabato): from P4,738/person
Roundtrip bus fare: from P660/person

DUMAGUETE - P2,000.00 3D/2N
Roundtrip airfare (Davao-Cebu): from P4,946/person
Roundtrip sea fare (Cebu-Dumaguete): from P1,100/person

ILOILO - P1,200.00 3D/2N
Roundtrip airfare: from P8,019/person
Roundtrip sea fare: from P2,630/person

LEYTE - P1,650.00 3D/2N
Roundtrip airfare (Davao-Cebu): from P4,946/person
(Cebu-Tacloban): from P2,970/person
Roundtrip sea fare (Cebu-Tacloban): from P462/person
Roundtrip bus fare: from P328/person

SURIGAO - P1,050.00 3D/2N
Roundtrip airfare (Davao-Cebu): from P4,946/person
(Cebu-Surigao): from P2,374/person
Roundtrip sea fare (Cebu-Surigao): from P803/person
Roundtrip bus fare (Cebu-Surigao): from P404/person

ZAMBOANGA - P1,950.00 3D/2N
Roundtrip airfare: P5,827/person
Roundtrip sea fare: from P1,950/person

From Subic/Clark

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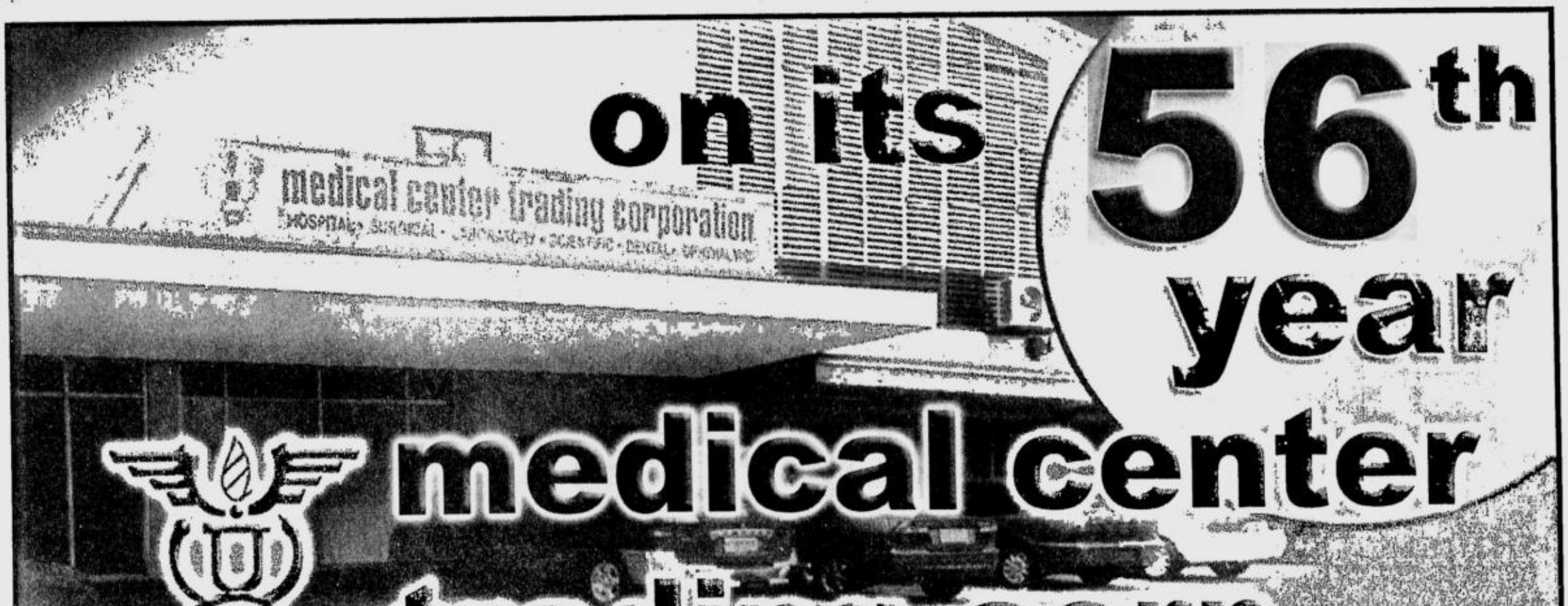

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MESSAGES

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

I commend your company as it notches another milestone in the history of its 56 years of business operations. With its remarkable growth over the years, the company has displayed the Filipino will and capability to excel in the global era. I urge you to continue keeping the quality of your products and services at par with world-class standards as we strive to win the opportunities for growth and development.

The 21st century offers unlimited opportunities to attain greater progress and prosperity for our country. Each of us is called upon to take advantage of these opportunities and assume a more active role in nation building. It is therefore, inspiring to know that there are companies such as yours that complement our government's efforts in creating a vibrant business environment and a better life for our people.

I wish your company greater success in your future endeavors. My administration joins hands with the private sector in establishing the physical foundations for sustainable development and in ensuring the attainment of our vision of a more peaceful and prosperous life for our countrymen.

Congratulations and MABUHAY!

Manuel M. Dayrit, M.D., M.Sc.
Secretary of Health

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Today, Medical Center Trading Corp. observes its 56th Anniversary. In behalf of our staff, I would like to revalidate our commitment with you by not only keeping it but also delivering the newest and applicable medical technology that our countrymen can benefit from. To give you excellent services that are never stratified to only few but to everyone regardless of who you are.

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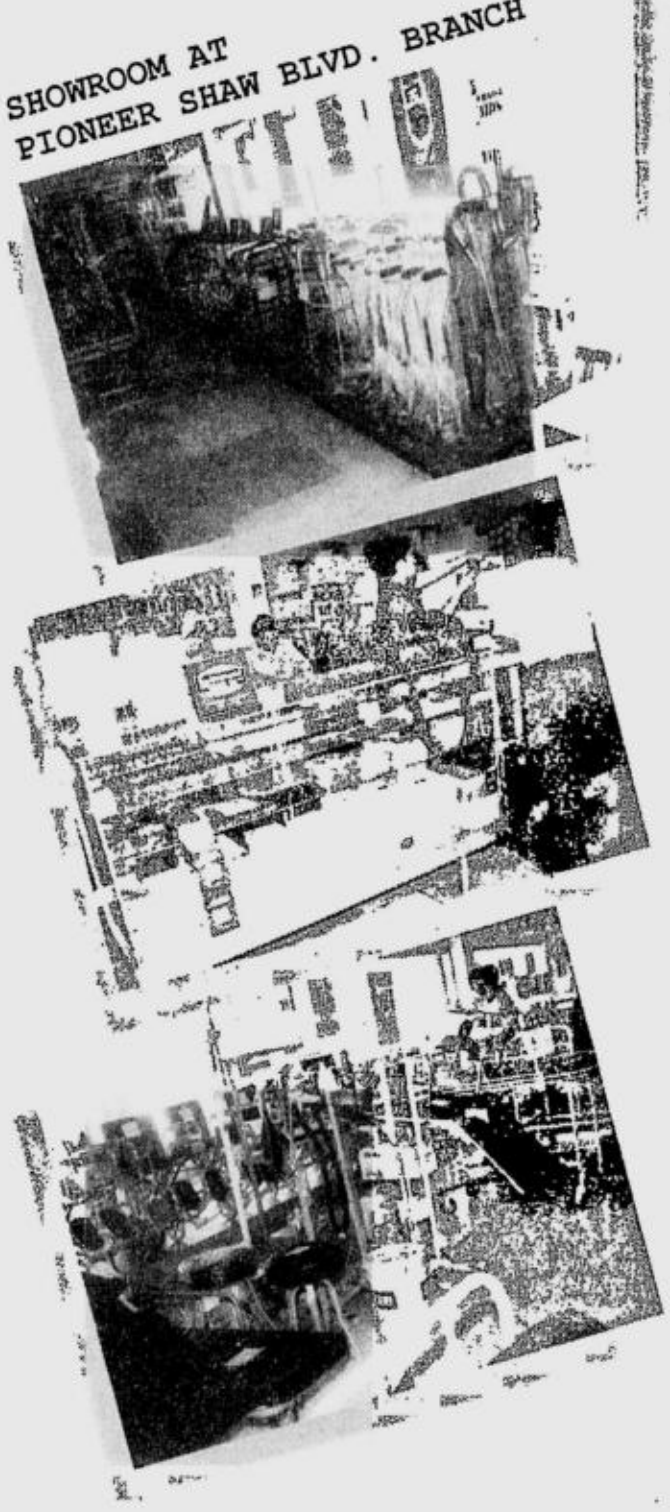
Once again, accept our deepest gratitude for unifying with our endeavor through these years.

Ratatangaj, M.D.
President
Medical Center Trading Corp.

SHOWROOM AT PIONEER SHAW BLVD. BRANCH



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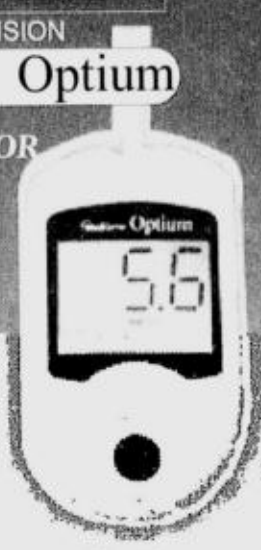

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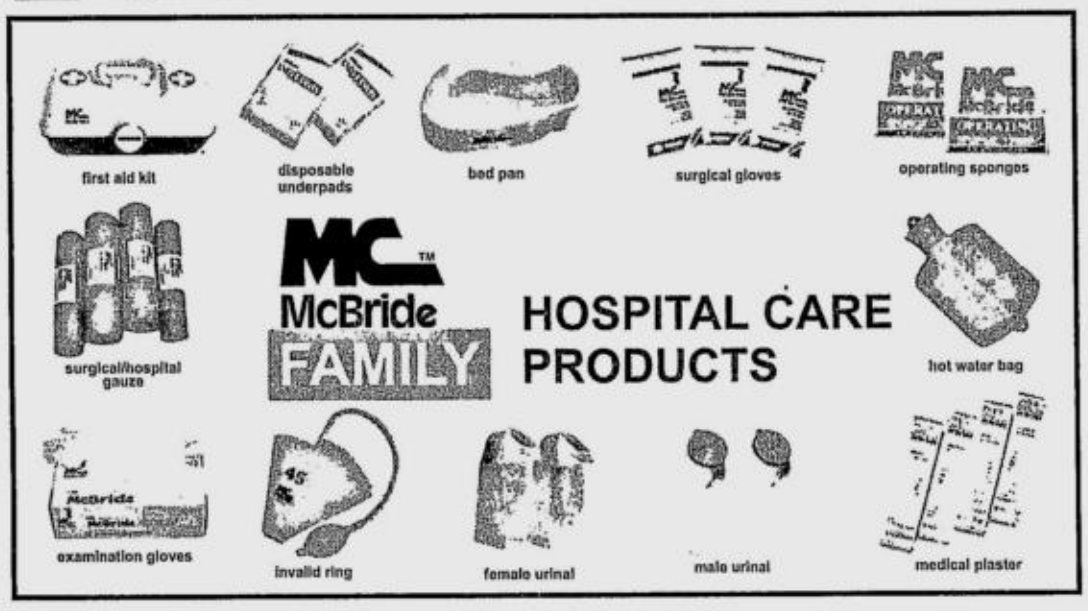

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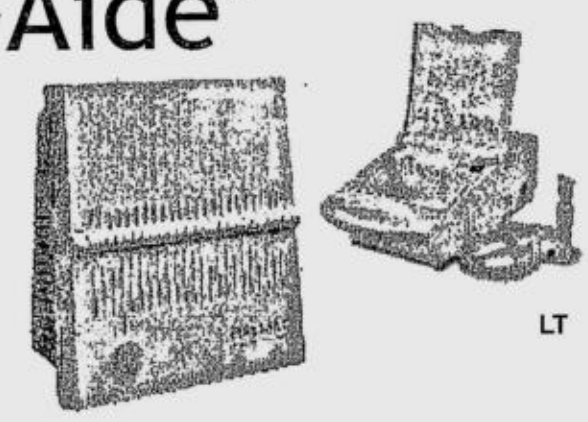

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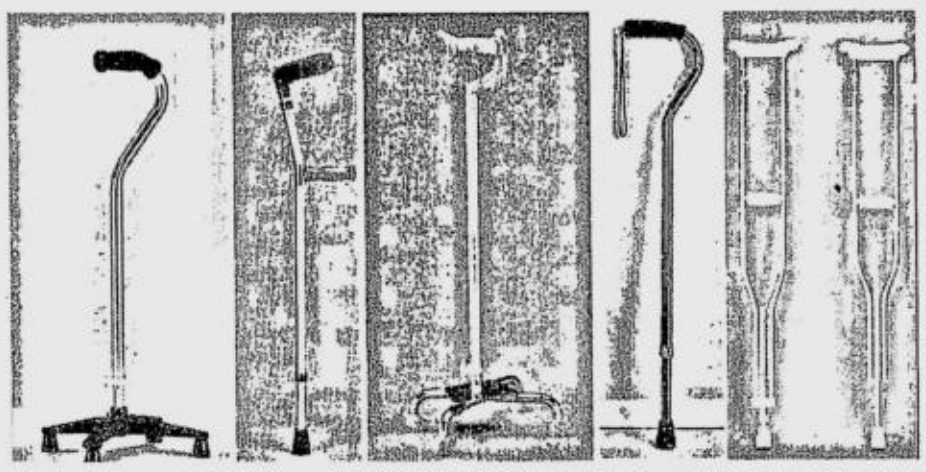

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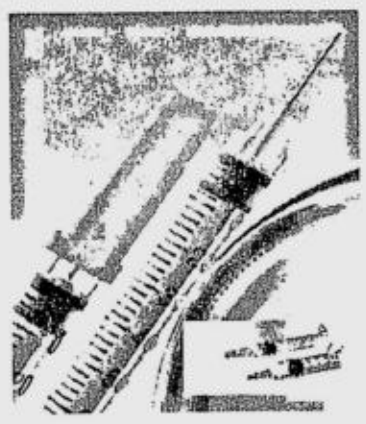

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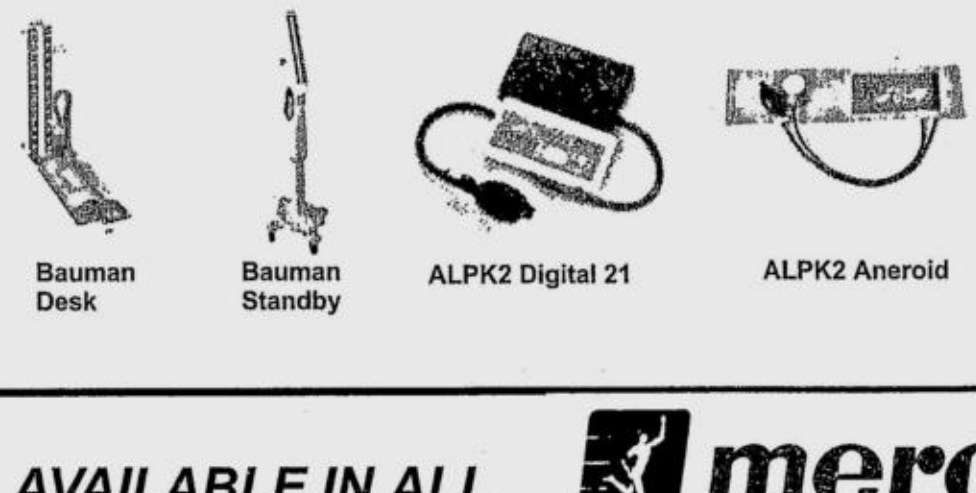

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Haifa bomber kills 15; Arafat remains defiant

From page A1

injured in that attack, five of them seriously.

The Ramallah siege, which has trapped Arafat and some of his men in three rooms on the second floor of the main building in the compound, continued to draw widespread condemnation—from European countries, the Arab world and even close US allies Japan and Turkey.

US retreats

But the United States retreated from its earlier criticism of Israel's actions, with US President George W. Bush yesterday placing almost all of the blame for the recent violence on the Palestinian leader.

Arafat must "make it absolutely clear that the Palestinian Authority does not support these terrorist activities, and use his security forces to prevent them from happening," Bush said.

On the same day Bush spoke to reporters at his Texas ranch, Palestinian security officials claimed Israeli forces had stormed Arafat's office, exchanging fire with Palestinian guards a few meters from the Palestinian leader. But the army vehemently denied troops were inside the three-story building.

Security officials said troops cut a hole through one of the walls and reached Arafat's second-floor private quarters. It was not immediately clear where Arafat was during the fighting, though some officials said he was just meters away from the battling forces.

No harm

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, speaking on Israel Radio as the fighting was reported in Arafat's office, said: "Our decision not to harm Arafat still stands. There's no change. We don't want to turn it into a world war, into a regional war. We don't want to turn the entire world against us."

Israeli officials said yesterday there was suspicion several top fugitives, including the assassins of an Israeli Cabinet minister, were being sheltered by Arafat, but the government did not publicly demand their surrender.

"We are not making any demands," said Danny Seaman, director of the Government Press Office. "We either take them or we won't."

Arafat remained defiant. Surrounded by a few aides, sometimes in darkness punctuated only by candles and a flashlight, he gave interview after interview by telephone from his windowless office, demanding that the Israelis end what he called their "aggression against the Palestinian people."

Several hours after cutting power, Israel restored electricity to Arafat's office and allowed some food—pita bread, cheese and other supplies—into the building.

Diners on fire

In the Haifa attack, twisted piles of metal covered the mall floor and wires dangled from what was left of its roof. Witnesses said some of the diners were on fire.

The Islamic militant group Hamas said it carried out the attack to avenge Israel's incursion into the West Bank town of Ramallah.

"We will continue the martyrdom attacks on Israel until the full withdrawal from Palestinian territory," Hamas announced over mosque loudspeakers in the West Bank refugee camp of Jenin. The assailant was identified as Shadi Tubasi, 22, a resident of the camp.

A rival claim by the Islamic Jihad group could not be confirmed.

The blast went off early Sunday afternoon in the Arab-owned Matza restaurant, near a gas station and just outside the Grand Canyon shopping mall.

"Watching people on fire is just horrible. I heard an explosion, I went into the gas station and I started to deal with the injured people," a witness, Shimon Sabag, told Israel Radio. "I couldn't deal with the critical injuries so I turned to the moderate. I tried to put out the fire, even the moderate injured were on fire."

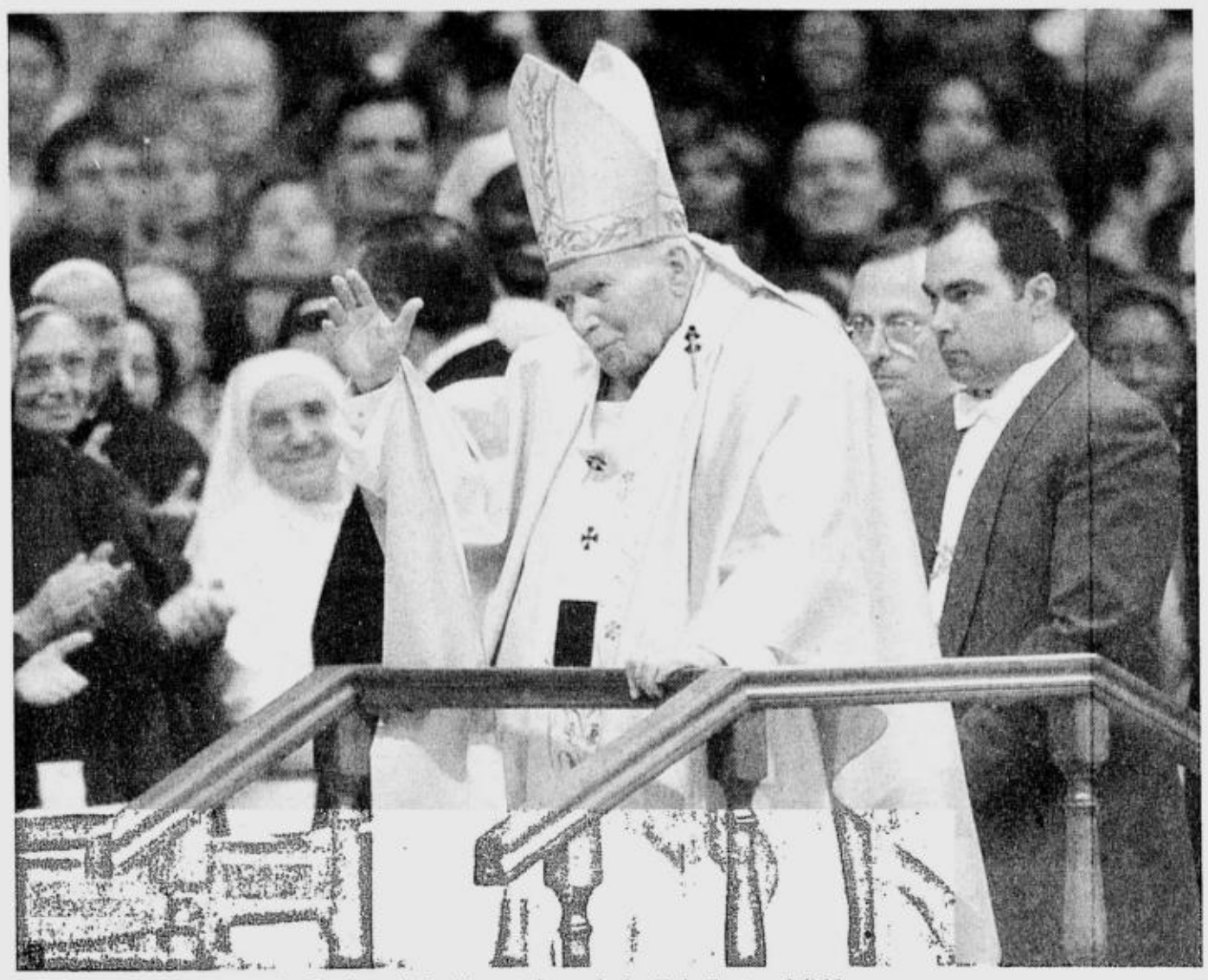
Mixed city

The restaurant was crowded, and Amram Mitzna, the mayor of Haifa, a mixed Arab-Jewish city, said almost everyone inside was injured. Dozens of ambulance workers rushed to the scene, unfolding stretchers. One man was taken to a hospital in a private car, and collapsed as he emerged from the vehicle.

A man in his 20s, identified by Israel TV as a son of the restaurant owner, sat on the sidewalk near the scene, crying and covering his head with his arms. He was comforted by a police officer who gave him water and a cigarette.

David Baker, a spokesperson for Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, said Israel would have to break "this chain of terror" and use whatever means necessary "to achieve this at the earliest opportunity."

Last week, Israel launched a major military offensive against Palestinian militias, and in a first step took over Ramallah, including most of Arafat's headquarters in the city. Arafat has been confined to a three-story office building by Israeli forces. ***AP, AFP, Reuters***



POPE John Paul II leaves the St. Peter's Basilica at the end of a Holy Easter vigil Mass. AP

Frail Pontiff denounces 'horror' in Holy Land

From page A1

would have knee surgery shortly. Asked for comment on the report, a Vatican spokesperson, the Rev. Ciro Benedettini, indicated there might be a statement later in the day.

The surgeon who reportedly would do the surgery, Alfredo Carfagni, told The Associated Press in a telephone interview that nothing had been decided.

Carfagni said he had yet to examine the Pope's painful right knee. Before any surgery could be performed, examinations would have to be carried out such as magnetic resonance tests, he said.

Carfagni confirmed that the Vatican had contacted the hospital where he works in Rome about the possibility of surgery but stressed that the hospital hadn't heard yet if and when the Pope would be coming.

In the meantime, "let's hope for a miracle" that the knee will improve and no surgery will be needed, Carfagni said.

With the help of cardinals, John Paul celebrated Mass on the steps of St. Peter's Basilica.

He called on Christians everywhere to "work for peace so that (Jesus') peace may end the tragic sequence of atrocities and killings that bloody the Holy Land, plunged again these very days into horror and despair. It seems that war has been declared on peace!"

That was the Vatican's official English translation of his remarks. Speaking in Italian, the Pope used a phrase that translates as "dramatic spiral of abuse of power" instead of "atrocities." It was not clear why the translation varied.

John Paul went on to add that "nothing is resolved through reprisal and retaliation."

"This is truly a great tragedy," the Pope continued. "No one can remain silent and inactive, no political or religious leader!"

"Denunciation must be followed by practical acts of solidarity that will help everyone to rediscover mutual respect and return to frank negotiation," the Pope said as tens of thousands of people in the crowd listened in silence.

After days of chilly early spring weather, a brilliant sun warmed the square, where the Pope sat in an armchair shaded by a canopy.

The Holy Week ceremonies made evident just how frail the Pope had become. For the first time, he ceded his place at the altar during Palm Sunday and Holy Thursday Masses.

Also for the first time, he didn't carry a wooden cross for even a few meters in a Good Friday procession at the Colosseum.

In addition to arthrosis of the knee, John Paul suffers from symptoms of Parkinson's, including a hand tremor and slurred speech.

But on Saturday night, at a special altar constructed for him to avoid his climbing steps, John Paul celebrated an Easter vigil Mass in a three-hour-long ceremony in St. Peter's Basilica.

John Paul turns 82 in May and his doctors have long been advising him to cut back on his activities, especially after surgery in 1992 to remove a bowel tumor and hip surgery in 1994 after he fell in his bathroom.

On Sunday, John Paul was whisked aboard a white open-topped vehicle to the altar on the steps of St. Peter's Square and cheers rose up from the crowd as he passed by.

Whenever he stood up, John Paul's suffering was particularly evident. He gripped the prayer book lectern for extra support, and his face was often contorted in apparent pain. ***AP***

Maestro San Pedro; 89

From page A1

Kayumanggi," died at 1:45 p.m. yesterday in Angono, Rizal. He was 89.

San Pedro, a National Artist for Music, died at the Angono Medics Hospital where he had been rushed before noon after he complained of chest pains.

According to Dr. Richard Villanueva, San Pedro died of cardiac arrest secondary to acute myocardial infarction.

Villanueva quoted San Pedro's personal nurse as saying that the composer had a history of hypertension and heart ailment. Just recently, he said, San Pedro survived a stroke.

Proclaimed National Artist for Music in 1991, San Pedro was the fourth of eight children of Elpidio San Pedro and Soledad Diestro. He traced his musical genes from his maternal grandfather who was church organist during the Spanish colonial period.

When his maternal grandfather, Rafael Diestro, died, San Pedro succeeded him as church organist when he was only in his late teens, by which time he had already composed not only songs and hymns but also two complete Masses for voices and orchestra.

Born on Feb. 11, 1913 in Angono, San Pedro was married to Gertrudez Diaz and had five children.

UP scholar

He enrolled in the University of the Philippines in 1932 and was a university scholar of the UP College of Music until his graduation in 1938.

San Pedro earned a Teacher's Diploma in Composition and Conducting under several teachers like Antonino Buenaventura, Antonio Molina (all National Artists for Music), Francisco Santiago and Juan S. Hernandez.

He took advance training in composition under Bernard Wagenaar of the Netherlands and harmony and orchestration under the eminent Vittorio Giannini. He pursued further studies at the Julliard School of Music in 1947.

In between composing, San Pedro taught composition at the UP College of Music and served as chair of its Composition and Conducting Department from 1970 to 1973.

He also taught at the St. Scholastica's College, La Concordia College, Philippine Women's University, Santa Isabel College, St. Paul College, St. Joseph's College and the Centro Escolar University.

Awards

A winner of several composition competitions during his college and post-college days, he also received the Republic Cultural Heritage Award in 1962 for his symphonic poem, "Lahing Kayumanggi," which depicts the heroic struggle of the Filipino people for national emancipation.

Among the numerous awards he received were the Asean Award for Music, Papal Award, Tanglaw ng Lahi Award, Signum Merit Medal and Patnubay ng Sining at Kalinangan.

According to music critic Antonio Hila, San Pedro will be remembered as the creative nationalist who glorified the Filipino soul through the creative use of the folk idiom in his compositions.

In his time, the composer declared: "I don't believe that nationalism in music can be expressed by literally using the material of our folk songs. The composer, rather, should squeeze from the folk material the essence, style, atmosphere and common touch that is Filipino and express in terms of his personality and temperament."

Hila added that San Pedro was halfway between the ultra-conservatives or romantic chauvinists and the modernists or academic technicians in Philippine music.

"As it is now, San Pedro stands on firm ground that glorifies the nationalist tradition in Philippine music," he added.

Movie themes

San Pedro also composed music for the movies, mainly those produced by the late Fernando Poe Sr. Among them were "Limbas," "Hanggang Pier," "Barong-Barong," "Milyonaryong Hampas Lupa," "Darna," "Limpia Bota" and "Dugo ng Bayan."

He also composed the oratorio, "The Redeemer," which is about the life and passion of Jesus Christ.

San Pedro used the band founded by his father in the 1930s, the Angono Municipal Symphonic Band, as his laboratory in band conducting and composition.

In 2000, he managed to conduct with ease the band, now known as National Symphonic Band of Angono, during the Independence Day celebration of the "Concert at the Park."

The UP gave San Pedro the title of professor emeritus in 1979 and conferred on him a doctoral degree in humanities, honoris causa, in 1991.

As national artist, San Pedro will be given a state funeral. ***With reports from PDI Research and Nelson F. Flores***

UK's Queen Mum; 101

From page A1

world and the House of Windsor.

The mother of Queen Elizabeth died in her sleep on Saturday afternoon at the age of 101, with her daughter at her bedside.

The feisty "Queen Mum" was the glue that kept the royal family together through seven tempestuous decades—from the abdication crisis that propelled her shy husband on to the throne to grandson Charles's bitter divorce from Princess Diana.

Along with Winston Churchill, she also symbolized the best of British grit during World War II. Yet, she was also a woman of wit and fun, who joked at her own expense, cheered on her horses at the track and grew haughty with any delay in her lunchtime gin.

"She was part of the fabric of our nation and we were all immensely proud of her," said Prime Minister Tony Blair. "Her bravery . . . during the Blitz epitomized both her own indomitable spirit and the spirit of the nation in its darkest hours."

The Queen Mother was feted as the plucky little woman who stood up to the Nazis by staying with her husband King George VI during the German blitzkrieg bombing of London as the British empire stood alone against tyranny in 1940.

Adolf Hitler branded her Europe's most dangerous woman.

"We have really lost our most treasured national human being. The Queen Mother was not only a historical figure, she was history," said Lord St. John of Fawsley, a close friend.

Indeed in the long-awaited death of one old lady—she had receded from public view after health problems stopped her sorties by golf buggy—still another curtain has been drawn over World War II. With all the big names from that conflict long gone, she, the lone woman on the stage, had outlived them all.

From US President George W. Bush to coalition forces fighting in Afghanistan, tributes flowed in from around the world. "She was a pillar of strength," Bush said.

"She was a symbol," said Tolo Alberti, a tourist from Spain who gathered at London's Buckingham Palace, where flags flew at half-staff. "We came here to watch history in the making."

Easter Sunday

On Easter Sunday, the Queen Mother's coffin will be moved to the Royal Chapel of All Saints in Windsor Great Park.

An aide said Charles, heir to the British throne, was "absolutely devastated" by the death of a beloved confidante. He and his sons William and Harry cut short their skiing holiday in the Swiss resort of Klosters and headed home on Sunday.

Prince Andrew, the Duke of York, another grandson who gave the Queen Mother so much heartache with his own divorce, was flying back from Barbados where he had been holidaying with his ex-wife Sarah and their children.

Her death came weeks after that of her younger daughter, 71-year-old Princess Margaret, and as the queen was struggling to ignite enthusiasm for celebrations marking her 50-year reign.

The funeral will take place on April 8 at Windsor where, after 50 years of life as a widow, the "nation's favorite grandmother" will be reunited with her husband. King George VI died in February 1952.

Worlds away from the spontaneous public outpouring that greeted the death in 1997 of Princess Diana, the Queen Mother's funeral will be a grand occasion of pomp when Britons hark back to times past.

"It will alter the royal family," said Kenneth Green, a 64-year-old mourner. "She was the best of the lot. The young ones don't do as much."

A mainstay through all the scandal kicked up by younger royals, the Queen Mother was perennially the most popular member of "The Firm." She was also the queen's staunchest ally.

"It is a very sad time for the queen. She's lost her sister and her mother in the same year," said a palace spokesperson.

At the end

Media reports said the 75-year-old queen was called back from riding on the grounds of Windsor Castle, west of London, to be with her mother at the end. Mother and daughter held hands, tears flowed and then the flurry of international calls began.

Broadcasters broke into regular programming to pay homage to the matriarch of a vanishing way of royal life and black-topped newspapers marked the passing of a woman and her age.

The News of the World said: "Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, was the last of her magnificent generation."

Flowers were laid at the gates of Buckingham Palace, candles lit and teddy bears stuffed through the bars.

One scrawled tribute echoed the end of an era: "Our nation lost its grandmother today." ***Reuters***

Marcos cronies' Swiss funds unfrozen

VELASCO

From page A1

ment victory in the forfeiture cases against these cronies, the waiting period for the freeze had already lapsed.

"They (the Swiss authorities) already did (lift the freeze) and it's because of procedural intricacies," the commissioner said.

"According to their own interpretation, it had already prescribed. Really, I could not understand it either. They have a letter explaining it. Supposedly, prescription had set in under their rules," he added.

Moreover, according to the Swiss, the documents provided by the PCGG about the Marcos crony deposits were "not new."

Funds transferred?

The PCGG's main fear is that the Swiss deposits in question might already have been transferred or dissipated by the time a new freeze is ordered.

"Yes. It's possible. Just like the (case involving the) tourist duty-free shops. It (the freeze on their funds) was lifted by the Sandiganbayan for just a short while. The next day, I think, (the funds) were immediately transferred," the PCGG official said.

The PCGG does not have any choice but to rely on Kurer, the source said.

"You rely on somebody whose track record is such that he was able to do something, even if only a little. We cannot get somebody who has absolutely no track record," the official said.

The lifting came after the PCGG has paid almost all of its financial obligations to Kurer's law firm, Badertscher Dorig & Poledna.

Last year, the PCGG owed Kurer 676,229.35 Swiss francs. By Feb. 28 this year, the PCGG had paid him 658,098.85 Swiss francs, leaving a balance of only 18,130.50 Swiss francs.

When Kurer informed the PCGG that the freeze had already been lifted, the commissioners were dumbfounded.

"We told our lawyer, Martin Kurer, to try to do something about it. The problem is that when we talked to Martin Kurer, he claimed that he was (already) able to accomplish much because of the very unusual rule of the Swiss Federal Court (when it transferred) the '(Marcos) Swiss accounts' to us in 1997 even before we had won a case. (He said that this Swiss action) was so exceptional," the PCGG official said.

Kurer claimed that the Swiss court's decision in 1997 ordering the transfer of the Marcos Swiss deposits—then estimated at $500 million, including interest—was already a "big compromise."

But despite the ruling, the money has not been really transferred to Philippine soil. The funds are kept in escrow accounts of the Philippine National Bank abroad—mostly in Singapore banks—or invested in foreign firms.

Not a single cent has been transferred to Philippine banks. The government can touch the funds only if it wins a final favorable judgment on the forfeiture case with the Supreme Court. The Sandiganbayan has already reversed the decision favorable to the government in the Marcos forfeiture case, Civil Case No. 0141.

Accounts denied

Jann, who assumed his post in 1999, replacing Peter Cosandey, was one of those who had denied that Union Bank of Switzerland Account No. 885931 existed, which Australian investigator Reiner Jacobi cláimed belonged to Ferdinand Marcos' youngest daughter, Irene Marcos Araneta.

Jann claimed that Account No. 885931 was not part of the UBS numbering system. Kurer also denied that the account existed, only to admit it later in a Senate investigation. Documents presented in the Senate blue ribbon committee investigation in 1999, coming from UBS itself, revealed that the account did exist.

The documents also showed that both Jann and Kurer had lied to the PCGG in denying the existence of those accounts.

Last year, Irene Araneta herself tried to transfer her UBS account, identifying it as No. 885931, in a document she presented to Deutsche Bank in Dusseldorf, Germany. She had wanted the funds to be transferred to her recently opened accounts in Deutsche Bank.

Forfeiture cases

Last December, the PCGG filed forfeiture cases with the Ombudsman against Velasco, Clavecilla, Roa and Gimenez, and Romualdez. The Office of the Ombudsman received the cases on Jan. 2, 2002.

On Feb. 14, PCGG Chair Haydee Yorac wrote Ombudsman Aniano Desierto inquiring about the status of the cases.

"Up to this date, however, and more than one month since the above-mentioned filing, no notice or any other document has been received by the Commission indicating any action taken by the Office of the Ombudsman," Yorac said in her Feb. 14 letter.

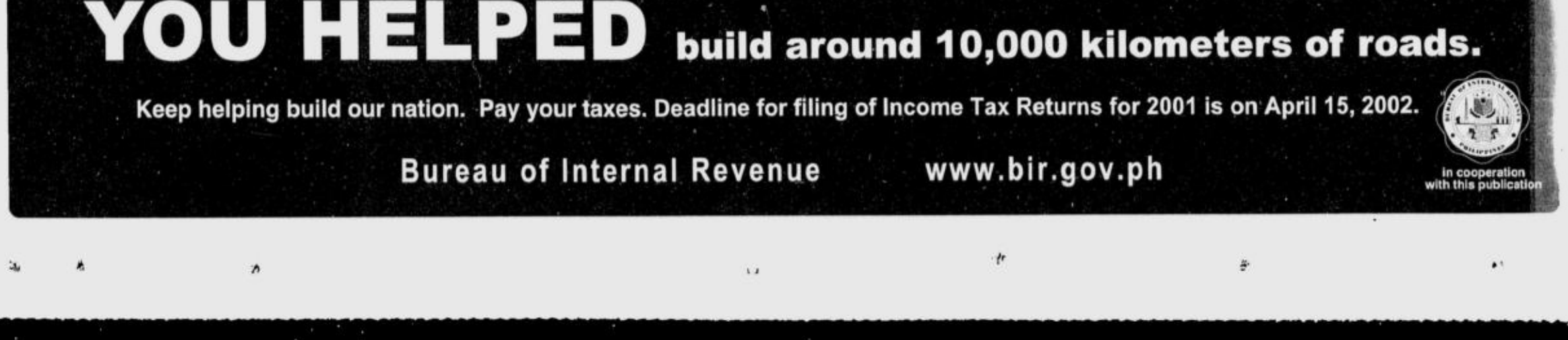
"Needless to state, any delay in acting on these petitions will prejudice—if it has not already prejudiced—the Republic of the Philippines, particularly its efforts to recover the ill-gotten wealth of the respondents deposited in Switzerland and elsewhere," she said.

On Feb. 18, Desierto wrote to Yorac, rejecting the cases.

Citing Republic Act No. 6770, Desierto said his office had no authority to conduct a preliminary investigation into the forfeiture petitions filed by the PCGG if this involved ill-gotten wealth amassed before Feb. 25, 1986. He then returned all the PCGG documents to Yorac.

According to the forfeiture petitions, Velasco had at least $14 million in Swiss deposits as of 1986. The Gimenez spouses had $3.2 million and 3.093 million Deutsche marks. Clavecilla had $250,000 in Swiss deposits at the American Express Bank, while her relative Alfredo de Borja had at least $961,521.45, also at the same bank.

Romualdez, brother of former first lady Imelda Marcos, also had at least $979,000 in Swiss deposits as of 1986, according to the PCGG.



SPORTS ON TV Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

MOTOR SPORTS: Race Day—Brazilian Grand Prix at 9 a.m. and 9:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
BASKETBALL: US NCAA—2002 College Slam Dunk and 3-Point Contest at 1 p.m. (r) on ESPN
NBA—New York Knicks vs Orlando Magic at 8 p.m. (r) on Solar Channel

SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza ● Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

NCAA FINAL

It's Maryland against Indiana

ATLANTA—Top-seeded Maryland beat Kansas 97-88 Saturday to earn an NCAA championship matchup with Indiana, the unlikely Final Four team that hours earlier had upset Oklahoma 73-64.

Maryland reached the national championship game for the first time. A win over the Terrapins Monday would give Indiana its first NCAA championship since 1987.

Unlike last season when the Terps blew a 22-point lead to Duke in its first Final Four appearance, Maryland managed to make sure its big lead held up in the matchup of No. 1 seeds.

Juan Dixon hit a baseline jumper with 1:14 to play that gave Maryland an 89-82 lead after Kansas had cut a 20-point lead to five.

The Jayhawks still weren't done and neither was Dixon, who finished with 33 points.

Kansas hit two 3-pointers in the final 30 seconds. After the first, Dixon made two free throws to make it 92-85. After the second, Kansas called a timeout it didn't have and Dixon made one of two free throws on the technical to make it 93-88 with 19 seconds left. That was as close as the Jayhawks would get.

Now Maryland coach Gary Williams has a chance at his national championship and the Terrapins have an opportunity to erase last season's nightmare. Many of the players said this week they had still not gotten over the 95-84 loss to eventual national champion Duke in Minneapolis.

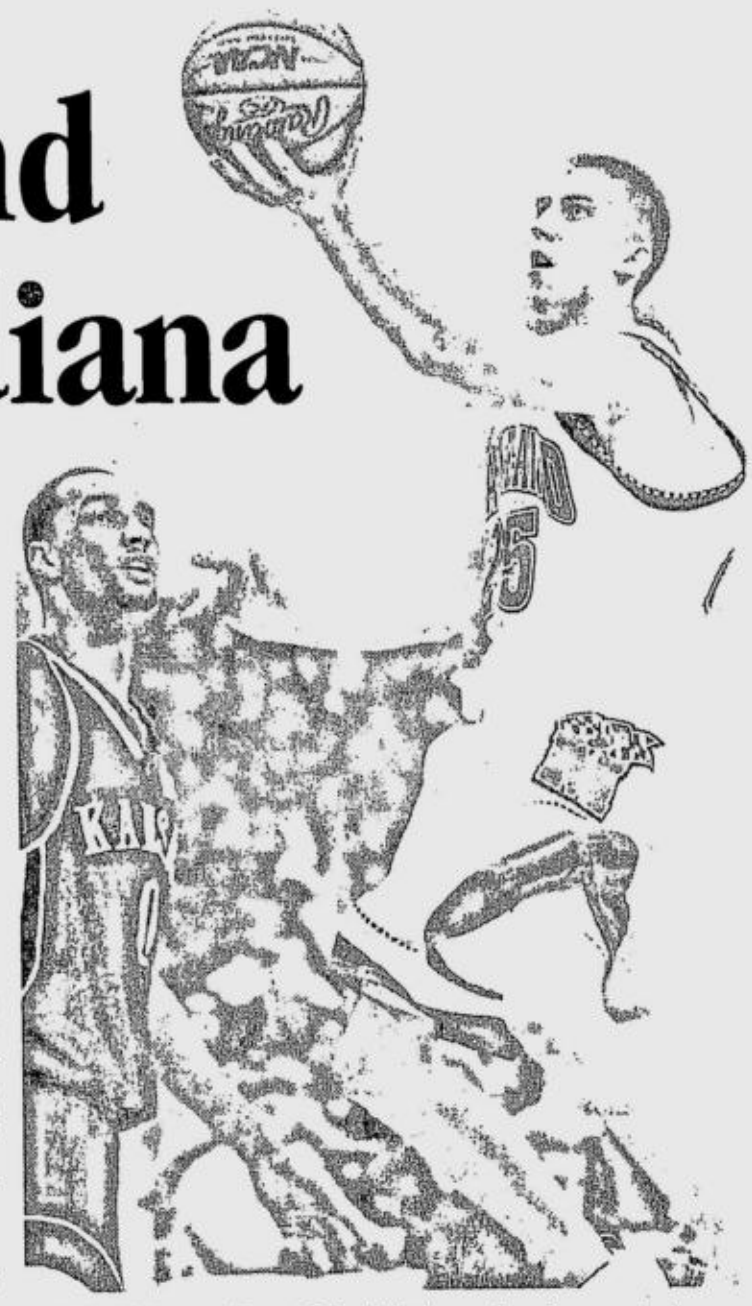
The fifth-seeded Indiana displayed amazing versatility to stun second-seeded Oklahoma.

Six-foot-10 Jared Jeffries led the fast break. Backup forward Jeff Newton swatted away shots and kept getting inside.

Indiana's last championship came with Bob Knight on the sideline. This time, it was second-year coach Mike Davis, who took over a program in turmoil, leading the way to the title game. *AP*

NBA results

New Jersey 102, Philadelphia 92; Charlotte 93, Cleveland 85; Memphis 105, Golden State 99; Denver 100, Chicago 84; Phoenix 90, Houston 88; Seattle 79, San Antonio 76; Utah 105, L.A. Clippers 92. *AP*



MARYLAND guard Steve Blake (right) soars for a layup against a helpless Kansas forward Drew Gooden. Maryland prevailed, 97-88, to advance to the NCAA championship game against Indiana. AP

Bodybuilding tilt at Padi's Mindave

THE MR. & Ms Padi's Mindave Bodybuilding Contest gets going tomorrow (April 2) starting at 9 p.m. at the Padi's Mindave Restaurant Bar at Mindanao Avenue corner Congressional Avenue, Quezon City. The event is organized by Star Bodybuilders Foundation and sponsored by Phansup, Frenzy, PNGOC, Wensha Spa, Star Samson Gym and Shark Energy Drink. For details, call 7005221 to 23 and 0917-8135916.

Talk N Text storms to 6th straight win

By June Navarro

GAME TOMORROW
(Philsports)
6 p.m.—Alaska vs Sta. Lucia

Teams	W	L
Purefoods	7	1
Talk N Text	6	1
Red Bull	5	2
Coca-Cola	5	3
Alaska	4	3
Fedex	4	4
Hapee-RP	4	4
San Miguel	4	4
Sta. Lucia	3	4
Selecta-RP	2	6
Ginebra	1	7
Shell	1	7

TALK N TEXT outplayed Shell inside the shaded lane to cruise to a 93-86 victory last night in the PBA Samsung Governors Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

Gerald Honeycutt got away with 33 points, mostly done inside the paint, and had 13 rebounds and eight assists to lead the Phone Pals to their sixth straight win.

Richie Frahm, Victor Pablo, Mark Telan and Gilbert Demape also had a splendid night as they combined forces to put the Phone Pals at solo second with a 6-1 record.

The Phone Pals are a game away from tying the front-running Purefoods TJ Hotdogs, who, behind the coaching expertise of interim bench tactician Ryan Gregorio, are sporting a 7-1 win-loss slate.

Already assured of a quarterfinal berth, the Phone Pals also lined itself up for a twice-to-beat incentive going into the next phase.

"Honeycutt did a very good job in dominating the shaded area but the win wouldn't be possible without the combined efforts of the locals," said Talk N Text coach Bill Bayno.

Although Frahm's 16 markers and Honeycutt's numbers eclipsed the entire local output of the Phone Pals, 49-43, Telan, Pablo, Demape, Elmer Lago and Kenny Evans poured loads of defensive efforts that cut the Turbochargers down to size.

While the Phone Pals padded their scorching win-streak to six, the Turbochargers suffered their sixth consecutive setback to remain at the cellar at 1-7.

San Miguel Beer continued its climb from the pits after a 74-56 triumph over sister team Barangay Ginebra in the second game.

The Beermen notched their fourth for a 4-4 card and tied Federal Express and Hapee-RP Team in the middle of the standings. The Kings share the cellar with Shell at 1-7.

Scores:

First game:

TALK N TEXT 93—Honeycutt 33, Frahm 16, Telan 14, Pablo 12, Demape 7, Lago 6, Evans 3, Crisano 2, Gonzales 0.

SHELL 86—Jones 27, Willingham 18, Dela Cruz 16, Hrabak 12, Wainwright 7, Bajar 4, Del Rosario 2, Marzan 0.

Quarters: 18-12, 52-41, 75-65, 93-86.

Second game:

SMB 74—Bennett 18, Strothers 14, Belasco 12, Lago 10, Victoria 8, Duat 5, Castro 3, Peña 2, Mente 2.

GINEBRA 56—Gee 19, Green 10, Caguioa 10, Meneses 8, Limpot 4, David 3, Helterbrand 2, Magtulis 0.

Quarters: 10-8; 31-22; 46-39; 74-56.

SPORTSWATCH

Araneta hosts NCA tourney

AFTER the Lenten break, the country's champion cockers return to the scene today (Monday) when they compete in the NCA 7-Cock Derby at the air-conditioned Araneta Coliseum. Hosted by Boy Primallon and Kano Daniel, quality fights will kick off today's three-cock elimination round, ending with the four-cock finals on Wednesday, April 3. Leading the star-studded cast are Big Dome owner Néne Araneta, Ambassador Danding Cojuangco, James Chiongbian, former Rizal Gov. Ito Ynares, two-time Cocker of the Year Jun Santiago, Pampanga's June and Rudy Jingco, former PBA commissioner Rudy salud, Lito Orillaza, recent Worlds Slasher champion Dicky Lim, Mario Villamor, Madlambayan brothers, Alex and Gerry Escalona; Boy Lechon and ROP, Gerry Fevidal, Louie Cua, former Mayors Jessie Viceo and Vic Amante, Iking Araneta, Ram Lopez, Eddie and Bomboy Araneta, Boy Jiao, Ryoichi Saito, Ruel Ricafort, Manny Co, Alan Tan, John Capinpin, Frank Berin and Rep. Rudy Albano.

Opener: Indians face Angels

ANAHEIM, California—When Cleveland and Anaheim open the major league baseball season Sunday night, their new looks will extend past their uniforms. The Indians and Angels will be wearing new jerseys, and there will be a lot of new bodies in them when Cleveland's Bartolo Colon (14-12 last year) opens against Anaheim's Jarrod Washburn (11-10). After winning six of the last seven AL Central titles but failing to capture its first World Series title since 1948, Cleveland jettisoned its big-bashers approach. All-Star second baseman Roberto Alomar was traded to the New York Mets in an eight-player deal, and Juan Gonzalez, Kenny Lofton and Marty Cordova left as free agents, along with pitcher Dave Burba. Controversial reliever John Rocker was dealt to Texas, where he rejoined John Hart, who left Cleveland to become general manager of the Rangers. *AP*

Baguio netter whips rival

BAGUIO CITY—Local bet Andrew Tangalin routed Abraham Bergado 6-3, 6-0 to advance in the boys' 14-under division at the start of the 2002 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop at the Baguio Tennis Club claycourts here. Tangalin towed along Rodel Navarro, a 6-1, 6-4 victor past Jayson Mamawal; while Patrick Arevalo and Paul Papa downed Paolo Melendez 6-3, 6-3 and Jaime Mamawal 6-2, 6-1 respectively in the boys' 12-under category. In the unisex 10-under bracket, Chynna Mamawal whipped John Maneja 6-1, 6-1 to move into the next round of the Milo netfest organized by the Children's Tennis Workshop and supported by Adidas & Sports Kids. Joselito Cortez joined Chynna following a 6-3, 7-5 triumph past Charles Maneja in the Philippine Tennis Association-sanctioned Milo age group witnessed by Region 1 VP Demi Andrada and club president, Richard Solang.

Urban Hunt eliminations on tap

THE INAUGURAL Clorets Urban Hunt 2002 gets going late this month with the holding of the elimination rounds. The event offers P100,000 cash to the winning team. Registration deadline is on April 12 and organizers are urging interested parties to apply at www.pfizer.com.ph; email cloretsurbanhunt@yahoo.com. or at AB Communications on the 20th floor of the Pacific Star Building, Makati Avenue corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City. For details, call 3030780 or 3030683. Objective of the meet is for participants to go after Clorets packs planted in stratgeic areas in Metro Manila and do various tasks assigned them. The three elimination races will be held on April 27 and May 4 and 11.

STA. ELENA CUP
Fred de Vera (fourth from left) receives the permanent trophy from club vice president Jabing Quiros after teaming up with Jimmy Bautista (holding glass trophy) to win the sixth Sta. Elena Cup, the annual member-guest invitational of the Sta. Elena Golf Club, recently. Joining them are club officials, from left, Jing Montano, Richie Garcia, Edward Tiu, Mon Mapa and Eddie Pineda.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Remembering Eddie Lim

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THE LATE Eduardo "Eddie" Lim was a great athlete, a basketball player who is best remembered for performing at the top of his ability yet not bragging about his accomplishments.

"Eddie was the only guard who can stop me," said fellow Olympian Ramoncito Campos, then one of the country's deadliest shooters. "He was not a colorful player but a stonewall in defense, using his prowess."

"He was a silent but effective worker, a very intense competitor in all our stints abroad," recalled Loreto "Bonnie" Carbonell, who is, like Eddie Lim, among 11 candidates to the third batch of the Hall of Fame.

Born on Oct. 13, 1930 to Benito Lim and Leoncia Cuyegkeng, Eddie's father was a businessman so his upbringing was not particularly lowly. He went first to primary and intermediate school at the Ateneo de Manila then finished his secondary and collegiate course at San Beda College where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Commerce degree.

Lim was truly gifted, in a class with Hall of Famers Caloy Loyzaga, Tony Genato and Ramoncito Campos who were all his teammates in several Olympic and Asian Games campaigns. He was an outstanding guard whose solid defense earned him the monicker "Stonewall" from the late renowned sportscaster Willie Hernandez.

As a star player of multi-awarded champion team San Beda College in the 1950s, Lim played a key role in leading the Red Lions to the NCAA championships in 1951-52 and the National Open title, also in 1952. In the Asiad, Lim played for the Philippines won the gold medals in 1954 in Manila under coach Herr Silva and in 1958 in Tokyo under coach Tito Eduque. He also competed in the 1952 Helsinki Olympics under Fely Fajardo; the 1956 Melbourne Games where the Filipinos, mentored by Leo Prieto, landed seventh; and the World basketball Championship in 1959 in Chile under master bench tactician Baby Dalupan. Lim highlighted his career by playing for the YCO Painters that won the National Open crowns a record seven straight years under Leo Prieto and Tito Eduque, capping it by winning the inaugural ABC championship in Manila in 1960.

Married to the former Luisa Ontengco, Lim became a successful businessman, achieving fame in the stock market where he served as board chair of both the Manila Stock Exchange (from 1988 to 1993) and Philippine Stock Exchange (1992-93) and chairman emeritus of the Philippine Stock Exchange at the time of his death.

* * *

For inquiries, call fax/phone (044) 933-1214.

Serena spanks Jennifer

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida—Serena Williams came from behind in the first set, erased seven set points in the second and beat top-seeded American countrywoman Jennifer Capriati 7-5, 7-6 (4) Saturday to win the Nasdaq-100 Open.

Williams, seeded eighth, won her first Key Biscayne title by beating the world's top two players back-to-back. She advanced to the final with a breakthrough victory Thursday over older sister Venus.

When Capriati sent a backhand long on match point, Williams hopped to the net with glee, her index finger raised. "It was two hours of unbelievable tennis from the first ball," Williams said.

Capriati double-faulted five times, and each came at a critical time. The noonday sun and warm temperatures may have taken a toll on her 36 hours after she finished a grueling semifinal win over American Monica Seles that extended past midnight.

"It's been a tough battle all week, tough with the schedule," Capriati said.

Still, Capriati had her chances. She served for the first set at 5-4, but Williams won the next three games to take the set. On set point Capriati double-faulted into the net.

Williams, who didn't lose a set in the tournament, earned $385,000. Capriati settled for $200,000.

The win was the third in a row for Williams over Capriati, all in finals, including at Scottsdale earlier this month. The rivalry now stands 4-4.

Capriati will retain the No. 1 ranking until at least April 15, ahead of No. 2 Venus Williams. Serena Williams will climb from ninth to seventh next week. *AP*

Rotary Challenge gets major boost

WITH Taylor Made Adidas and Laus Group of Companies confirming their major backing, everything is set for the Rotary Corporate Challenge of the Rotary Golfing Fellowship Foundation of the Philippines (RGFFP) slated April 18-19 at the Mimosa Golf and Country Club in Clark Field, Pampanga.

Taylor Made is providing top-of-the-line equipment serving as major prizes for the tournament and raffle while the Laus Group through Jun Zingaloa of Rotary Club-Angeles Centro is putting up a brand new car for a hole-in-one feat.

The other major sponsors are Clark Development Corporation, Casino Filipino-Angeles and Clearwater Country Club. Asahi Glass and General Nutrition Centers are also providing support.

RC Angeles Centro is jointly hosting the tourney with the RGFFP that will be in addition to the previous leg held in Baguio, another in the south and an overseas exposure late this year.

The usual team (four to play, three to count) and individual competitions will be held but the RGFFP committee is introducing a concept in team play where two Rotarians can include two guests in their team.

Tournament fee is P3,500 per player for early birds (up to April 1) and P4,000 for late registrants (up to April 10) and guests. The fee includes green fees and practice rounds, welcome cocktain, awards dinner, raffle tickets, giveaways and awards/prizes.

For inquiries, interested corporate teams or Rotary clubs may call Pancho Perea or Erica Pekson of the RGFFP Secretariat at tel. no. 721-8896 or 7210564 (local 31). Fax. no. is 721-8896.

Jungolf Interclub fires off in 2 venues

THE ANNUAL summer circuit of the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines gets going today, April 1 with the 2002 Interclub championships in two venues.

At least a dozen teams from all over the country are disputing the Interclub diadem which will feature only the Class A (15-17 years) and Class B (13-14) players at the Manila Golf Club course inside Forbes Park.

Competition is tighter in the individual play with no less than 60 vying for top honors.

Those playing in the Class C (11-12), Class D (9-10) and Class E (8 and under) divisions will be at the Aguinaldo Golf Club.

Jungolf president Merwin Mediana said that the event marks the start of the new points system that will be used in the selection of the country's bets to the Junior World championships in San Diego, California this July.

First place is worth 50 points, second 30 points and third 20. Participation is worth 5 points. Jungolfers garnering the highest points in three out of the first five tournaments will make it to the San Diego team.

Other events in the summer calendar include the John Hay Open on April 6-7, Sherwood Open April 15-17, Tat Filipinas Open April 22-24, Tagaytay Open April 29-30, Malarayat Open May 6-8, Wack Wack May 15-17, Canlubang May 20-22 and Riviera May 27-30.

Jungolf chair Amalia Montecillo said that the rise in the number of players in the younger divisions is indicative of the big number of toddlers already in competitive golf.

Singh stretches Houston margin

HOUSTON, Texas—Fiji's Vijay Singh extended his overnight lead from two to three shots over Northern Ireland's Darren Clarke after the third round of the $4 million Houston Open on Saturday.

Singh, 39, without a victory on the US PGA Tour since the 2000 Masters, carded a six-under-par 66 at the 7,018-yard TPC at The Woodlands course to finish with an 18-under-par aggregate of 198. *Reuters*

Webb, Sorenstam up

PALM SPRINGS, California—Liselotte Neumann was joined by Australia's Karrie Webb and fellow Swede Annika Sorenstam at the top of the leaderboard after the third round of the $1.5 million Kraft Nabisco Championship on Saturday.

Fil-Am Dorothy Delasin, who tied for seventh last week in the Welch's Circle K Championship, moved into contention for her first major with a three-under-par 69 that left her just two strokes off in sixth place at 214. *Reuters*

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7-cock derby tomorrow

AFTER a week's rest, cockfight afficionados will be treated to a grand showdown of bigtime cockers and high rollers tomorrow (April 2) when the much-awaited LCC 7-Cock Derby gets going at the Mandaluyong Coliseum.

Sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Washout Shampoo of Lakpue Drug.

Youthful sportsman Louie Cua, a regular fixture in practically all bigtime derbies around Metro Manila and nearby provinces, is hosting the event

Invited to the derby are members of the United Cockers Association of the Philippines, National Cockers Association, Pasay Cockpit Cockers Club, Gamefowl Breeders Association of Negros and participants from Cebu, Davao, Pampanga and Bulacan.

"I would like to remind all the participants that the derby will start early on Tuesday, since more than 100 fights are lined-up," Cua said.

Submission of weight is today, Monday, April 1, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. For inquiries, please contact 531-4003, 531-4005, 535-2341 and 534-4110.

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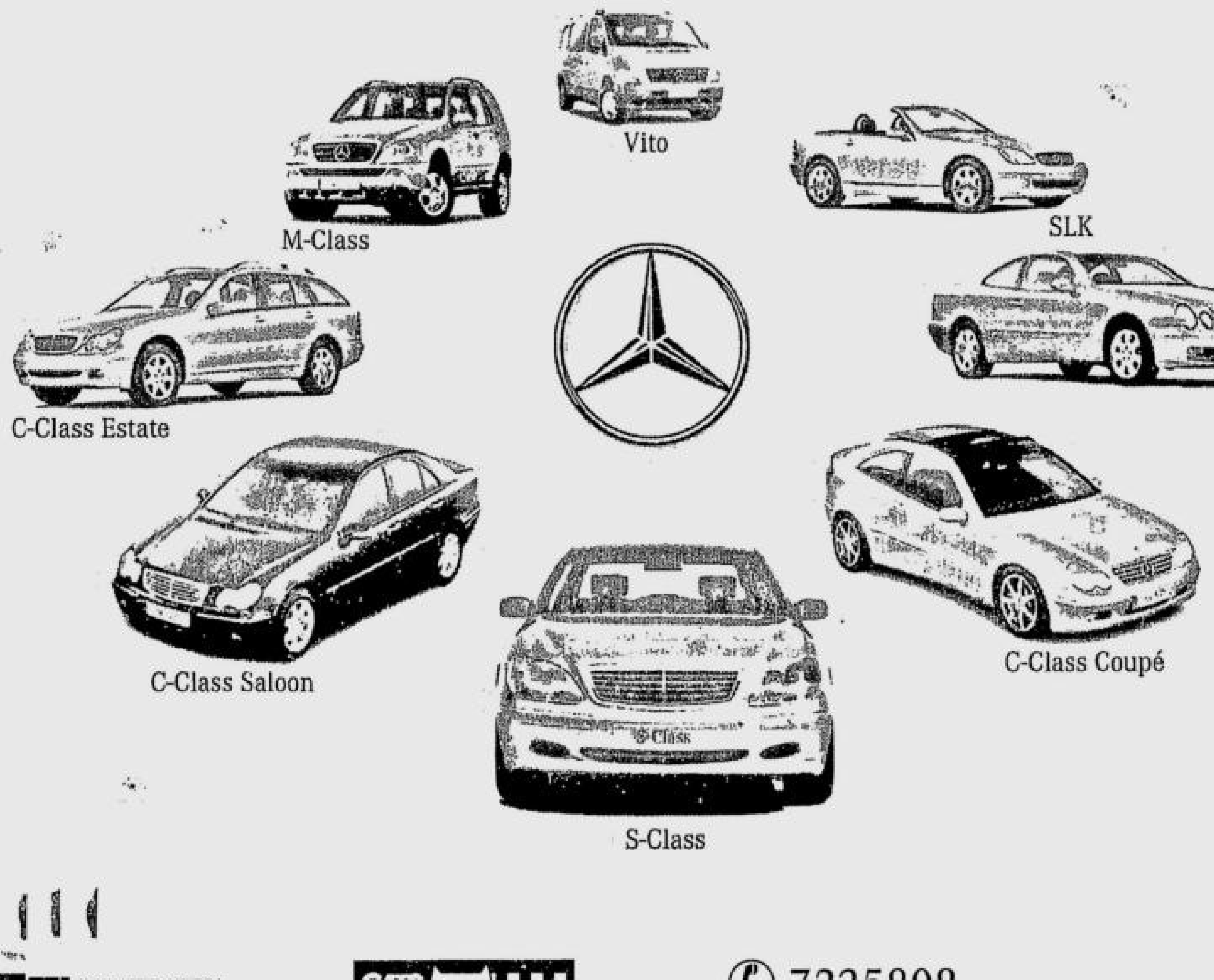

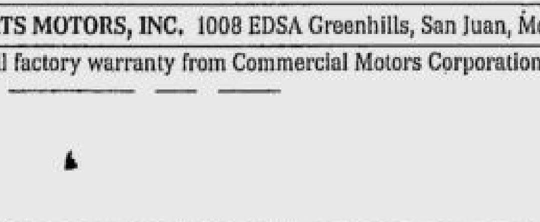
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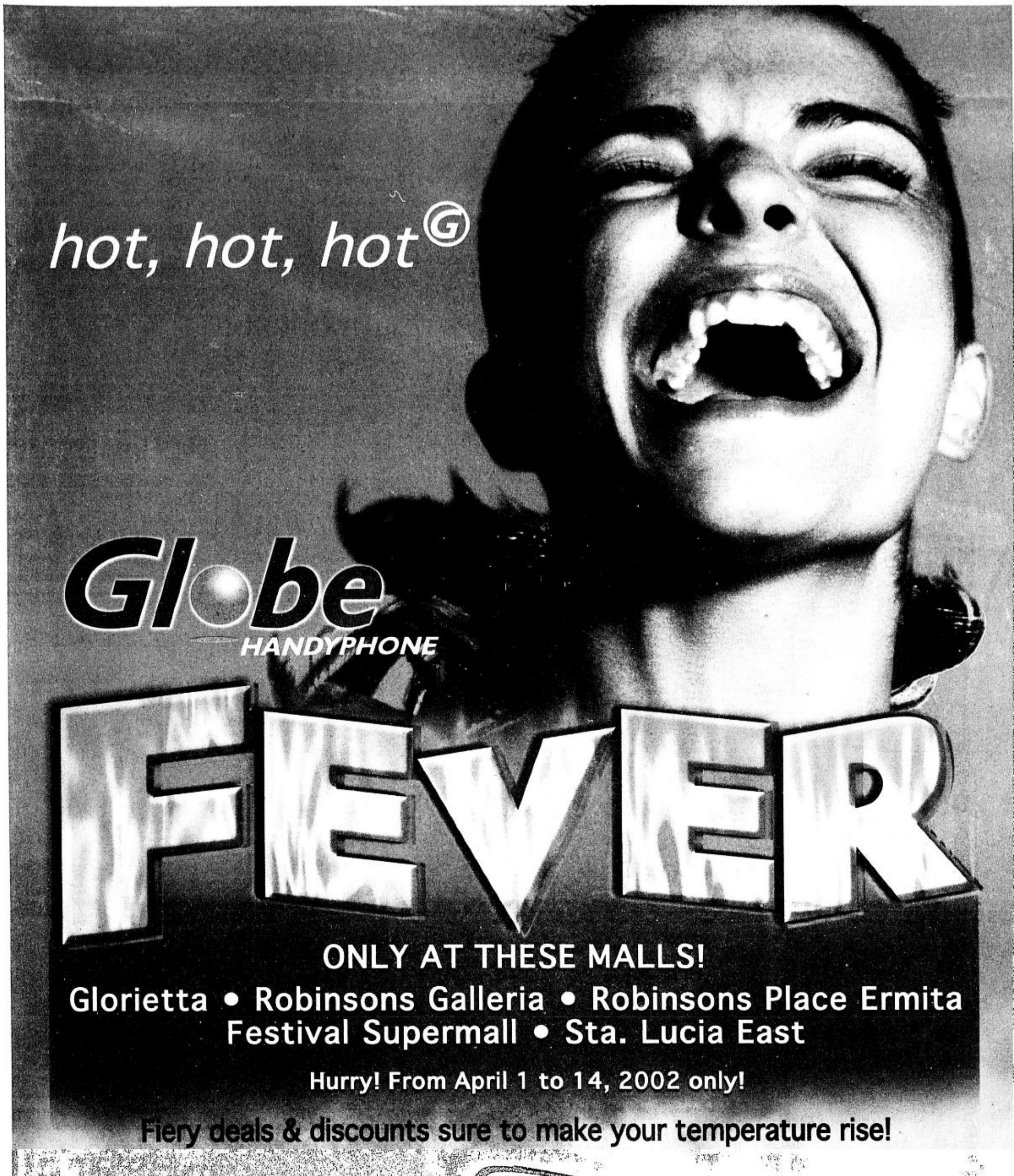
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YAN

Rico fans banned from interment /A26

METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

Arroyo turns her ire on Atienza /A26

Metro folk rate their cities fair

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

RESIDENTS of Marikina are generally more satisfied with garbage services, public market sanitation and traffic facilities than those living in eight other cities in Metro Manila, but they feel there are not enough parking spaces and traffic enforcers in their area.

On the other hand, Parañaque City residents feel they have enough parking spaces and alternate routes, but they are the least satisfied with the cleanliness of their public market and the number of trucks used to collect their garbage.

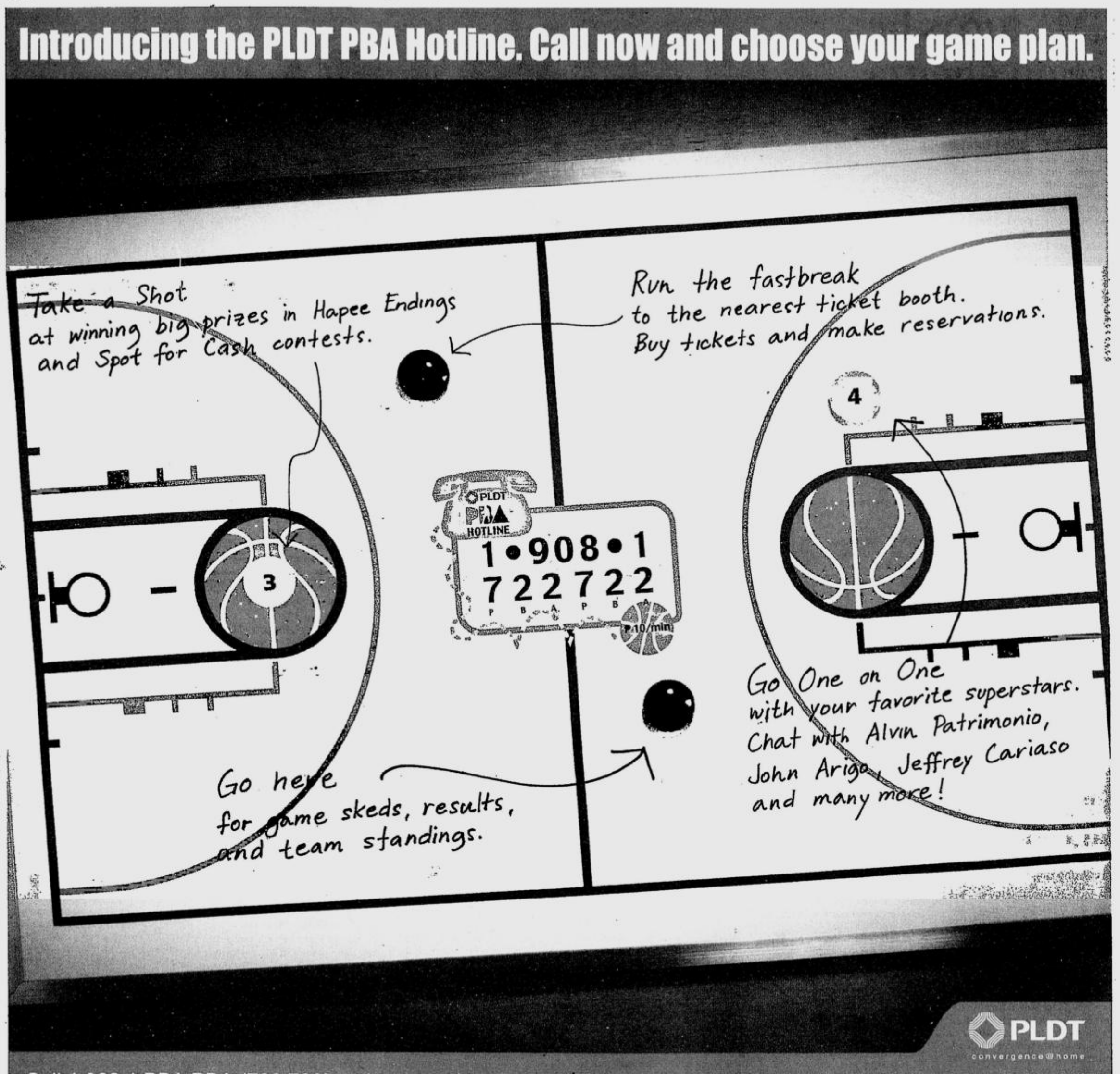
Using a new survey methodology developed by the Public Affairs Center in India, the Development Academy of the Philippines was able to generate such feedback from city residents in the pilot test of the "Report Card Survey" in nine Metro Manila cities.

The RCS survey, conducted from July 12 to Aug. 7, 2001 among 2,700 respondents in the nine cities, measured the level of citizens' satisfaction over local government performance in the areas of garbage collection, traffic management, public safety, public market management, permit issuance and licensing, water supply and housing.

The RCS, funded by the Asian Development Bank, covered the cities of Manila, Pasig, Mandaluyong, Pasay, Parañaque, Muntinlupa, Makati, Marikina and Quezon City.

The survey results showed that citizens in Marikina, Manila, Pasig and Mandaluyong are satisfied with the garbage collection. Makati residents gave their local government an above average

METRO FOLK /A26



MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza had the dubious honor of earning the ire of President Macapagal-Arroyo, shown here inspecting the gutted houses at the Baseco Compound in Tondo yesterday.

GMA turns her ire on Atienza

By Carlito Pablo and Philip Tubeza

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday lost her cool when she tried to comfort the 3,000 families who lost their homes to a fire, which struck the Baseco Compound in Tondo, Manila on Saturday.

At the receiving end of President Macapagal's legendary temper was Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, who was reportedly on vacation and was not able to make it to the site.

Sources said while the President was talking to the mayor on the mobile phone, Ms Macapagal became furious when Atienza supposedly began asking for funds to rehabilitate the area razed by the fire.

"Lito, that's your responsibility! That won't come from me," sources overheard the President telling Atienza in Filipino.

Atienza's son and Manila councilor Kim Atienza reached the mayor on the mobile phone, which he later handed to the President.

Sources said Ms Macapagal was frowning throughout her 10-minute conversation with Atienza.

"She was angry," a source said. "There's no doubt about that."

The President later handed the phone to a certain Colonel Bravo of the military's engineering brigade so he and Atienza could coordinate relief efforts.

President Macapagal also became upset when she found out that the head of the Bureau of Fire Protection was not around.

The President arrived at the Baseco compound upon her arrival from Cebu City about 11:30 a.m.

According to a Palace statement, President Macapagal directed the military's engineering brigade to put up a five-story tenement for the fire victims.

Ms Macapagal also ordered Atienza to finish in one month the processing of documents for the distribution of parcels of land which she previously awarded to the residents.

She recalled having proclaimed Baseco as public property.

Police are now investigating reports that arsonists started the fire that razed the shanties of over 3,000 families on Black Saturday.

Suspicious-looking persons were allegedly seen at the place and time when the fire supposedly started, police said.

The fire gutted the shanties on Block 13 of the Baseco Compound in Tondo, destroying over P15 million in property, said arson investigator FO3 Rommel Lorenzo of the Manila fire department.

Two infants were also injured in the blaze: five-month-old Alani Balgbalg and Dang-dang Maunoc, one year and three months old, Lorenzo said.

He said the fire began at 9:03 p.m. at the Allegre Dandra store.

The fire quickly spread to surrounding shanties, many of them made up of flammable materials. Soon enough, as if the entire community was ablaze, lighting up the dark sky on the eve of Easter Sunday.

Lorenzo said fire trucks from around Metro Manila raced to the Baseco compound after the blaze reached the general alarm level.

Firemen were able to put out the fire at 1:45 a.m. yesterday, Lorenzo said.

Rico fans banned from interment

By Leah Salterio

THE FAMILY of Rico Yan will not allow fans of the late actor to his interment on Thursday at the Manila Memorial Park in Sucat, Parañaque.

The family will instead permit the fans and members of the media to view his remains starting today, but only from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the main chapel of La Salle Greenhills.

Hundreds of fans and media members were earlier banned from the wake upon the request of the Yan family. But as early as dawn on Saturday, when Yan's body was brought to the Divine Child Chapel in La Salle, fans began to gather outside the venue hoping to get a final glimpse of the popular actor before he is laid to rest.

"Why are they doing this to the fans," noted a writer who took pity on the fans waiting outside the chapel. "Rico is a popular actor. His fans would naturally want to see him."

The interment on Thursday will be held after the 9 a.m. Mass at La Salle Chapel.

Yan was found dead Friday morning inside his garden cottage at Dos Palmas Resort in Puerto Princesa, Palawan. He was 27.

According to the autopsy report, he suffered from hemorrhagic pancreatitis resulting in cardiac arrest or *bangungot*.

Yan's wake was initially set at Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park, Makati. Nearly 500 fans gathered outside the chapel on Friday evening, waiting for Yan's remains to arrive after the autopsy at Arlington Funeral Homes.

But at the last minute, the family decided to hold the wake at La Salle Greenhills.

"They wanted to respect the privacy of the Forbes Park residents because they knew that fans would go to the wake," said ABS-CBN executive Lawrence Tan.

At La Salle Greenhills, security guards manning the gates to the chapel only allowed access to Yan's family members, relatives, show biz friends and fellow workers at ABS-CBN, where he was a contract star.

A long line of mourning fans, mostly female, endured the intense heat outside the school. They came from as far away as Antipolo, Cavite, Marikina and even Bulacan.

Last Saturday morning, Yan's eldest sibling, Geraldine, allowed some fans to enter the chapel in small batches of five. By mid-afternoon, Yan's brother Bobby requested the guards to stop the fans from entering the chapel. But Bobby assured the fans his brother's wake will be open to the public from Monday to Wednesday.

Even in death, Yan looked every inch a matinee idol inside his coffin. He was in a dark gray suit and a lilac polo shirt and violet tie.

Beside his coffin is a handsome portrait of him taken during his launch as a member of ABS-CBN's Star Circle in 1996. Hanging on the photo is said to be the actor's favorite dark blue tie.

Saturday night, Dominic Ochoa and Marvin Agustin, Yan's costars in the ABS-CBN sitcom "Whattamen," attended the wake.

Ochoa was with Yan in Palawan and was the one who found him dead Friday morning. Agustin was vacationing in Batangas with his family.

Tan said the network has no plans yet on what to do with "Whattamen" after Yan's death.

"We have not even thought about it," Tan told the INQUIRER yesterday. "We were as shocked as everyone else. We just want to take care of everything first to help Rico's family."

But Tan said "Whattamen" will air a special tribute to Yan on April 3 at 9 p.m.

Other stars who were at the La Salle Greenhills chapel on Saturday were Janice de Belen, Gladys Reyes, Angel Aquino, Regine Tolentino, Onemig Bondoc, brothers Leandro and Carlo Muñoz, and Noel Trinidad, who starred with Yan in the recent box-office hit, "Got to Believe in Magic."

ADMIRERS can only now turn to "fanzines" featuring their idol, after the family of Rico Yan announced the interment of the late actor on Thursday will be closed to the public. JOAN BONDOC

Cops brace for the rush home

By Christian V. Esguerra

AUTHORITIES are bracing for possible terrorist attacks as Holy Week vacationers troop back to Metro Manila in huge droves starting today.

Southern Police chief Jose Gutierrez has deployed 450 policemen to augment police forces in key areas in southern Metro Manila, particularly in Pasay City.

Uniformed policemen, accompanied by bomb-sniffing dogs, will man public markets, hospitals, and bus terminals—which are mostly located in Pasay—against groups that might trigger another bomb scare, according to Gutierrez.

"Though we don't have an intelligence report that some groups are planning to stage terrorist attacks, we're not taking any chances," he said yesterday.

The Philippine National Construction Corp. has assigned over 400 men to secure the North and South Luzon Expressways and provide assistance to motorists, according to PNCC radio operator Orly Lanuza.

The PNCC's mobile units are also patrolling both expressways and are looking out for suspicious boxes, he added.

Metro folk . . .

From page A25

rating in the same area. The rest of the cities rated fair, with the exception of Parañaque, which scored below average in garbage management.

In the area of traffic management, Makati and Marikina got the lowest rating of average, while the seven other cities got above average marks.

In a 78-page report, the DAP said ordinary citizens, through the RCS, "were able to make their sentiments known through the grades they gave to the service providers and suggestions for improving the services and addressing corruption."

The survey involved the extraction of the "average" experience of citizens in key public services, including their experience with local corruption.

The RCS used a scoring system to analyze data generated by the survey. The scores were based on scaled responses of the respondents, with 100 being the highest and 10 the lowest. The survey has an error margin of +/- 5.8 percent.

Garbage facilities

Marikina and Pasig residents say they are satisfied with their cities' garbage facilities. But those in Quezon City, Parañaque and Manila say their cities have poor facilities.

"Facilities" referred to garbage bins, designated dumpsites and accessibility of dumpsites. Of these three items, accessibility of dumpsites scored the least for all cities, the report said.

In public market management, Marikina rated "good," while Pasig and Makati score above average.

The rest of the cities got average ratings, while Parañaque failed to make the grade.

Parañaque also fared the worst in terms of cleanliness of public markets. Respondents also gave the city poor to below average ratings in the regularity of garbage collection and the overall cleanliness of public markets.

Still in the area of public market management, residents of Manila, Pasay and Pasig were the most afraid of pickpockets inside the market, while this was not a concern for those in Marikina and Parañaque.

Marikina got a perfect score of 100 in terms of public market utilities like water system and faucets and electricity.

Permits and licensing

The RCS asked respondents whether their city hall staff handling permits and licensing were helpful and courteous. Quezon City residents gave the lowest score of 64, while it was highest in Marikina with 79-80.

In the area of public safety management, Makati rated above average while Marikina fetched a fair rating.

In terms of the number of functioning traffic lights, appropriate street signs and traffic signs and use of pedestrian lanes, Quezon City fared the worst, while Marikina scored the highest.

"Marikina is well-rated when one talks about traffic facilities," the survey report said.

But in the enforcement of traffic rules, Marikina was at the bottom of the ranking. In contrast, Quezon City got the highest ratings, along with Pasay.

Marikina also rated poorly in traffic infrastructure maintenance, where questions asked touched on repair of potholes. In this area, Parañaque and Quezon City were rated above average while the rest were either average or below average.

Graft and corruption

The DAP found out that the need to pay extra amount for services is most evident in garbage collection, where 34 percent of the respondents say they had to pay additional amounts. Incidence is highest in Quezon City (50 percent) and lowest in Marikina (6 percent).

"For traffic management and permits and licensing, majority mentioned bribes as the cause for paying extra," the survey report said. "For public safety, a third says it's for routine fees and another one-third say it's for bribes."

Respondents were also asked whether they are willing to pay additional amounts for services. Results showed that for traffic management, 19 to 37 percent are willing to pay more to improve services.

For public safety management, those willing to pay extra to improve services ranged from 20 to 35 percent. Marikina residents were the most willing, followed by those in Makati.

In its conclusion, the DAP survey report said once the RCS has become a regular activity of local government units, city officials will have access to significant data and worthwhile facts on which decisions and planning can be based.

"The wealth of data can be further mined to aid in the pertinent future directions a city should take," the DAP said. "In countries where democratic processes have been introduced, a rating system such as the RCS can be a useful instrument for exploiting the relationship between accountability and the reelection bids (or even office tenure) of officials."

Already, officials of Makati, Marikina and Mandaluyong have recognized the advantages of using the RCS in their regular planning and budgeting exercise, according to the DAP.

The report said one city mayor even suggested that an RCS should be done twice during a local chief executive's term: upon assuming office to provide benchmarks for satisfaction with LGU services, and at the start of the third year, before the end of the official's term, to measure the impact of the administration's programs.

UST slay suspect's passport cancelled

By Norman Bordadora

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice has asked the Department of Foreign Affairs to cancel the passport of Reynald Von Manangbao, the former commander of the University of Sto. Tomas' corps of cadets suspected of killing student Mark Welson Chua last year.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez announced last week that his department has asked the DFA to cancel the young man's passport to force him to give himself up to authorities even if he has already fled to the US.

"If the government cancels his Philippine passport, he would become an undocumented alien in the United States," Perez told reporters. "He would have to come out and give himself up to authorities or else, he would have to be deported when found out."

The Bureau of Immmigration early this year announced that Manangbao, a son of a police official, fled the country even as the National Bureau of Investigation was conducting preliminary investigation to establish his culpability in Chua's murder.

"It has been confirmed that he is already in the United States," Perez said.

Chua, a Reserve Officer Training Corps cadet at the UST and a staff writer at the university paper "The Varsitarian," was allegedly tortured and killed by several cadet officers inside the corps office last year.

Chua reportedly incurred the ire of Manangbao and other cadet officers when the victim exposed the alleged corrupt practices of the UST corps.

"The cancellation of his passport is definitely a step in the right direction to bring him back to the country to face the justice system," Perez said.

Chua's father, Welson, earlier expressed disappointment over the successful flight of Manangbao to the United States, despite assurances from the suspect's father.

To GMA, distress call from a dead avid supporter

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

THERE'S nobody to accuse or charge. Nobody is officially at fault.

But the man on the phone sounded very, very agitated.

We must do something, he exclaimed, because our mutual friend Manny died on March 24 but they could not find a way to bury him.

Manny was Manny Suba, 55, a true-blue Pampangueño.

You probably don't know him.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has not heard of him.

But our alarmed caller, Henry Largo of Novaliches who has blindly assisted our late friend in his many noble undertakings, is sounding this distress call to Malacañang.

Henry swore Manny Suba died doing a chore for the President.

***

There was this national convention of GMA supporters called Aguman Ding Kapampangan at the Holiday Inn in Clark Field, Pampanga.

Manny Suba, who functioned as Aguman information officer for Region 9, was tapped to help in the hosting of the Holiday Inn affair set March 22-23.

The guy undoubtedly again abused himself to perform his assigned task.

Why? Well Manny happened to be a born workhorse.

In the old Manila Times of Tatay Chino Roces, Manny as editorial assistant was the ever-reliable go-to guy in the Sunday Times Magazine desk.

He was so efficient and trustworthy that Rudy Tupas, our editor at STM, did not hesitate to take him along when he put up the Expressweek magazine a month after the declaration of Martial Law.

***

At the Express, as in the old Manila Times on Florentino Torres, Manny was always the last guy out of the hole.

Of course, he had his other concerns. He also loved to eat and drink.

His big appetite had made him acquire the girth of a polar bear.

But, despite the trials and the long, tough years, he never lost that angelic heart of his.

He would always go out of his way to save somebody from harm or unhappiness.

This reporter witnessed an incident when Manny played soothsayer just to cure somebody of deep depression.

One afternoon after office, he invited a loveless officemate, a typesetter, to the grassy park across the street.

Informed of the problems, Manny masterfully ticked off the great fortunes supposedly awaiting the client.

The poor lady next wriggled out of her crisis. She's, in fact, one of the successful pioneers at the INQUIRER. Of course, she was never to learn that Manny Suba did not know a single line about palm reading.

***

Whenever he would return from Zamboanga City, where he had settled after marriage, our friend would always have something for us, a fruit, dried fish, a scarf, a piece of anything from that place.

The last time he called up was nearly three years ago. He wanted help. Not for himself but for two Mindanao boxers who had traveled to Manila with the hope of making a name in the big city.

No connections, no fights, and the boxers were going hungry.

A few calls and the boxers got their professional bouts. They next picked up their purses, took a ship back to Zamboanga where, unlike the mindless hordes from the provinces, they were saved from being sucked by the hopeless squalor in squatter colonies.

***

Manny's body lies in state in his father's place on No. 7 Tagumpay St., Gulod, Novaliches, Quezon City.

Manny's father, by the way, was the late Manila Times photographer Domeng Suba, well-admired former president of the Manila Times Labor Union.

Manny died at the Angeles University Foundation Medical Center a day after the Aguman Ding Kapampangan conference.

He passed out doing his job. But what amazed the lady physician who attended to him was how the guy managed to work despite his severe condition.

Henry Largo reported that, upon being admitted on March 23, Manny was diagnosed with a heart as huge as a dinner plate. He had severe cirrhosis. His kidneys were clogged.

Only the inborn desire to always finish his assigned task had obviously kept him going.

***

Hospital bills ran up to P30,000 and Gov. Lito Lapid and a certain Epifanio Lacap, said to be a health undersecretary, chipped in P10,000 each to save the situation.

There are bigger problems. Manny's family wanted his body flown to Zamboanga City for burial.

They are indefinitely stuck in Novaliches because they could not settle the P42,000 the funeral parlor had charged for the coffin and services.

No, Henry Largo, Manny Suba's ever-reliable supporter said, they did not like to sound like they were out to collect.

Manny was not the sort who would do a kind deed with the hope of being paid back.

But, as the poor fellow also died trying to do a chore for the President (*"Namatay siya na gusto naman tulungan si* Presidente Gloria"), Henry Largo was wondering if Malacañang could extend a little help.

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5 NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
6 ICE AGE

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4 BLADE 2	7 A BEAUTIFUL MIND	1 GET WELL SOON (Phil. Premiere)	4 A BEATIFUL MIND
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		3 ICE AGE	
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Pearl Plaza Cinemas
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1 HARI NG SELDA
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3 ICE AGE
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) TIME MACHINE
5 BANDITS

METROPOLIS st r
tel 850.4285

1 TIME MACHINE
2 MASARAP HABANG MAINIT
3 HARI NG SELDA
4 BLADE 2
5 BIBINGKA
6 ICE AGE
7
8

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1 ICE AGE

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GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY) HARI NG SELDA
2
3
4 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
5 JOHN Q
6 SNAKE CHARMER
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8 (SDDS) TIME MACHINE
9 (DOLBY) BLADE 2

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2 HARI NG SELDA

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1 HARI NG SELDA
2 HARI NG SELDA
3 GOT 2 BELIEVE
4 (SDDS) TIME MACHINE
5 SNAKE CHARMER
6 (DOLBY) BLADE 2
7 (DTS) ICE AGE
8 BIBINGKA
9 BATAS NG LANSANGAN

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS) TIME MACHINE
2 BLADE 2
3 GOT 2 BELIEVE
4 SNAKE CHARMER
5 (SDDS) ICE AGE
6 HARI NG SELDA
7 (DOLBY) BLADE 2
8 BANDITS

Gotesco Ortigas
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1 HARI NG SELDA
2 BLADE 2
3 (DTS) TIME MACHINE
4 SNAKE CHARMER
5 (SDDS) ICE AGE

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Sampaguita
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Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 HARI NG SELDA
2 BLADE 2
3 TIME MACHINE

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
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tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY) BLADE 2
2 TIME MACHINE
3 RESERVE
4 HARI NG SELDA
5 ICE AGE

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1
2
3
4
5
6

FRC Cinema
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1 HARI NG SELDA
2 RESERVE

Berma
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1 HARI NG SELDA
2 TIME MACHINE

CitiMall
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2

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
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tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1 HARI NG SELDA
2 TIME MACHINE
3 (DTS) ICE AGE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 HARI NG SELDA
2 (DTS) ICE AGE
3 (DOLBY) TIME MACHINE
4 JOHN Q

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 HARI NG SELDA
2 (DOLBY) TIME MACHINE
3 (DTS) ICE AGE
4 JOHN Q

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 HARI NG SELDA
2 SHALLOW HAL
3 SOON TO OPEN
4 SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1 HARI NG SELDA
2 HARI NG SELDA
3 (DOLBY) D-TOX
4 (DTS) QUEEN OF THE DAMNED

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) HARI NG SELDA
2 TIME MACHINE
3 MASARAP HABANG MAINIT
4 (DTS) BLADE 2

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) TIME MACHINE
2 HARI NG SELDA
3 (DTS) ICE AGE
4 MASARAP HABANG MAINIT
5 JOHN Q

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
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1 HARI NG SELDA
2 ICE AGE
3 TIME MACHINE

Olivarez Los Baños
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1 TIME MACHINE
2 HARI NG SELDA
3 ICE AGE

Olivarez Tagaytay
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1 D-TOX
2 EVA
3 GOT 2 BELIEVE

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1 HARI NG SELDA
2 ICE AGE
3 RESERVE

Cabuyao
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2 (DTS) RESERVE

Fourstep
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1 RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

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2 BANDITS
3 BIBINGKA

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 ICE AGE
2 WE WERE SOLDIERS
3 D-TOX
4 HARI NG SELDA

Jade Cinema
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2 HARI NG SELDA
3 (DTS) ICE AGE
4 NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE

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8 BANDITS
9 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
10 JOHN Q

Ermita
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1 BLADE 2
2 BANDITS
3 HARI NG SELDA
4 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
5 A BEAUTIFUL MIND
6 ICE AGE
7 TIME MACHINE

Metro East - Marcos Hway
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1 THE MAJESTIC
2 ICE AGE
3 A BEAUTIFUL MIND
4 BLADE 2
5 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
6 HARI NG SELDA
7 TIME MACHINE
8 BANDITS

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1 BLADE 2
2 BANDITS
3 HARI NG SELDA
4 ICE AGE
5 TIME MACHINE
6 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
7 A BEAUTIFUL MIND
8 THE MAJESTIC

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1 BLADE 2
2 HARI NG SELDA
3 ICE AGE
4 TIME MACHINE
5 BANDITS
6 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED

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1 WE WERE SOLDIERS
2 JIMMY NEUTRON
3 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
4 NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
5 D-TOX
6 RAT RACE

Iloilo
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1 WE WERE SOLDIERS
2 ICE AGE
3 NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
4 HARI NG SELDA
5 EVA
6 A BEATIFUL MIND

Star Mills- Sn. Fernando, Pamp.
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5 HARI NG SELDA
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Regine Velasquez comes full circle

ON Sunday, March 31 (8 p.m. on IBC-13), Viva TV will launch the new talent search show, "Star for A Night." One of the big deals related to the show is the fact that its host is singing star Regine Velasquez, who got her own start in show biz years ago when she topped another TV talent show, "Ang Bagong Kampeon."

Thus, hosting the new talent search is like coming full circle for Regine, and her way way of paying the industry back for all the perks she now enjoys.

Expect her to be extra considerate and encouraging to the nervous new talents competing for top honors on her new show, because she knows exactly what they're feeling.

Another big deal is the fact that, on "Star for A Night," contestants won't simply open their mouths, take a deep breath, and sing. The program will showcase each talent in the best possible light, with costuming, styling, coaching, production values—and, perhaps best of all, detailed critiques of their performance by the show's judges.

This is a welcome touch that should add a lot of polish and pizzaz to the contestants' numbers, so that both judges and viewers can more productively evaluate their star potential.

We hope that singing stars will really emerge from among the contestants who join this contest. We have other talent-search shows on the tube but, for some reason, practically none of their winners have hit it big as singers in recent years.

May "Star for A Night" become "Stars for Years To Come," for some of the young talents that will be discovered on Viva TV's new talent show.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

'Sunday for skeptics'

SOME young Catholics feel that the Mass has no place in their lives. Only one out of five young people attend any kind of religious service regularly. To help in this regard, Jesuit Communications presents "Sunday for Skeptics – A Space for Seekers"—a TV Mass designed for young Catholics today.

The TV Mass is telecast 8 a.m. every Sunday on Studio 23. It invites young people to rediscover the beauty, poetry and significance of the Sunday Mass. "Sunday for Skeptics" starts telecasting on March 31.

If you know anybody who could benefit from this new approach to the TV Mass, let him or her know about it. If that person is you, try watching "Sunday for Skeptics" yourself!

'The King of Queens'

LAST March 18, Star World launched "The King of Queens," a sitcom that is telecast on the channel every Monday at 8 p.m., and again at 11:30 p.m.

"The King of Queens" is Doug Hefferman (**Kevin James**), a Queens, N.Y. parcel deliveryman with simple desires. Unfortunately, he has to put up with his wife's widowed father, who now lives with them.

Theater workshops

COUNTRY Waffles and Gantimpala Theater are joining hands to offer Children's Musical Theater and Teens' Musical Theater Workshops this summer.

From April 3 to May 19, Country waffles in Annapolis (Greenhills) and (Libis) will be the venue of Gantimpala workshops. The children's course is open to kids 6 to 12 years old, while the teens' workshop is for students 13 years old and above.

Other workshops on Voice and Singing for Children, Teens and Adults and on Stage and Production Management will be held at Gantimpala's office in Makati. Call 897-1533 for particulars.

New board members

THE GANTIMPALA Theater Foundation has elected its new board members—**Jojit Lorenzo**, **Billy Parjan**, **Ruby Anzasa Solmerano**, **Jorge Cabullo**, **Adriana Agcaoili**, **Frannie Zamora**, **Charryl Chan** and **Dell Cayetano**. **Tony Espejo** is the Founding Artistic Director and Chairman.

Gantimpala puts on plays at the AFP Theater, RFC Theater/Cinema and the JCS Auditorium of Paco Catholic School.

'Dexter's Laboratory'

CARTOON Network is starting a new season of "Dexter's Laboratory" this April. The show has developed an enthusiastic following. Dexter is a brilliant child with an imagination that knows no limits. But he still has to contend with his pesky sister Dee Dee, who just loves ruining his latest experiments.

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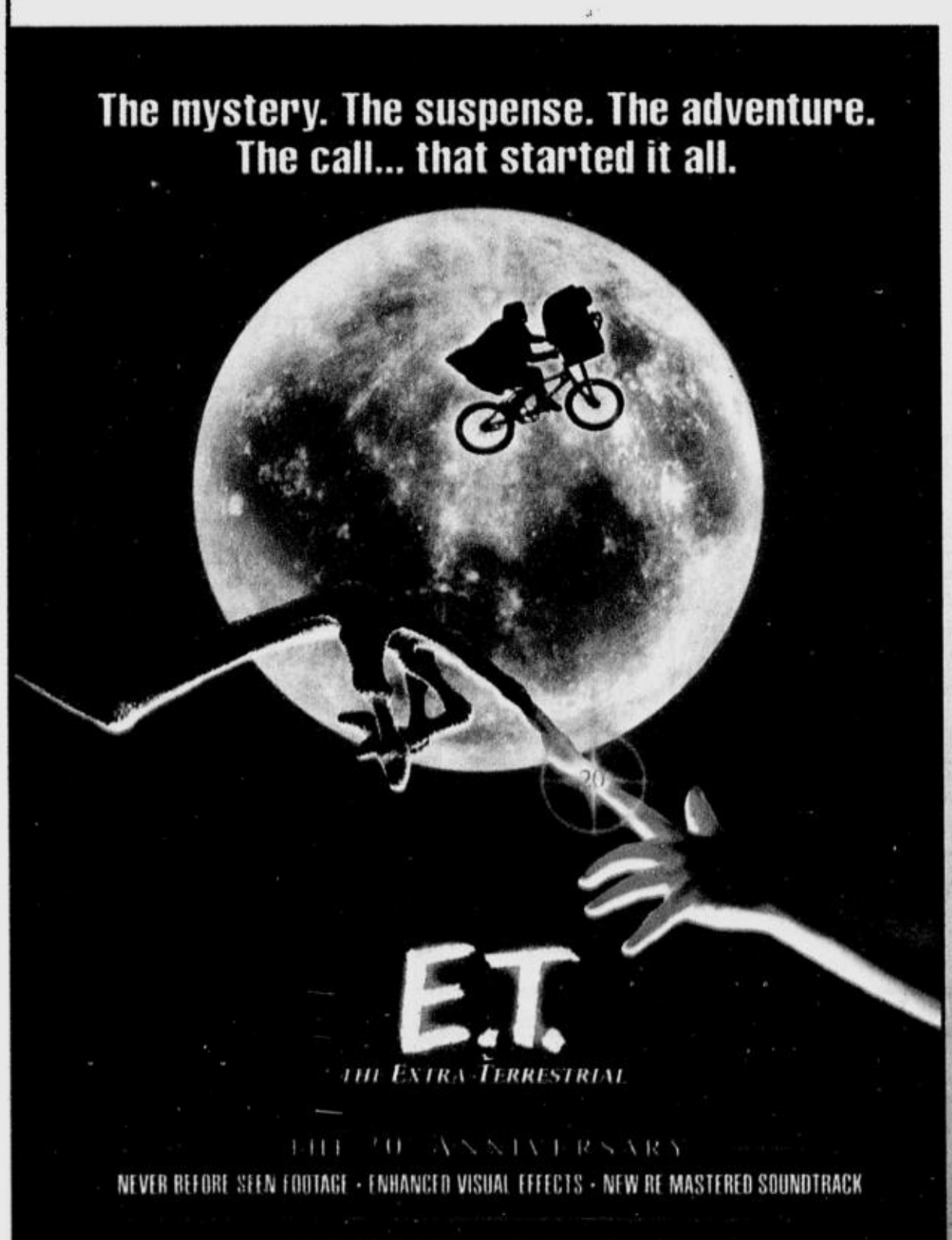
Still got that E.T. pencil case or lunchbox from way back? Bring them over and win fantastic prizes from 94.7 Mellow Touch.

April 2, Tuesday

Robinsons Movieworld Cinema 2, Robinsons Galleria

Catch the movie's regular screening on April 3 at your favorite Robinsons Movieworld cinemas.

MTRCB Rating: **GP**



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Please stop buying pirated discs

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

VIVA Video recently set a precedent by releasing the **Richard Gomez-Regine Velasquez** movie, "Ikaw Lamang Hanggang Ngayon," on VHS, VCD and DVD formats.

The movie was shown only last Valentine but Viva decided to release it on video three weeks after the theatrical exhibition.

The move is part of Viva Video's efforts to fight piracy, which has been crippling the entertainment industry. Viva Video even designed a special price scheme for the videos — P150 for VCD, P175 for VHS and P450 for DVD.

Film pirates are even more brazen these. They don't only mass-produce the fakes, they also tamper with intellectual property rights.

My younger sister who knows that **Mel Gibson** is my true love, spotted a pirated VCD of a Gibson film titled "Payback 2." When she told me that "Payback 2" was already available in pirated VCDs in Greenhills, I snapped, "Mel Gibson has no 'Payback 2' movie!"

I don't think there is even a plan to make a sequel to that 1999 flick.

My sister bought the pirated "Payback 2" VCD. One look at the cover jacket with the photo of Mel and **Robert Downey Jr.** and I knew right away it was "Air America."

The video pirates had the gall to even change the title of the film and market it as a sequel, so more people would be enticed to buy. Those who are not updated on Hollywood news would be tricked and robbed of their hard-earned pesos.

A year ago, it was unthinkable that DVDs could also be pirated. Today, you can go to Quiapo and find a wide array of pirated DVDs on one street alone.

Ask two of my friends. They went there and they were so thrilled when they came away with nearly two dozen tapes for only P100 each.

I condemned them for doing that. But the sad part is, they are even planning to go back and bring a convert to piracy. My girl friend attests the "Legally Blonde" and "Bridget Jones Diary" DVDs she got were clear copies.

I was in Greenhills a few days ago and I saw pirated copies of **Kevin Costner**'s most recent starrer, "Dragonfly," and the new Hollywood topgrosser, "Ice Age," for only P50 each.

As I am writing this, I overhear a male officemate telling another co-worker, *"Maganda ba ang* Spiderman? *Meron akong* tape."

"Spiderman" the movie, with **Tobey Maguire** in the title role, will be shown in summer in the US.

As long as there are people patronizing fake videos, pirates will continue to thrive.

Please help prevent piracy.

New filmfest entries

ACE comedian **Dolphy** backed out of the Manila Film Festival because he cannot complete the filming of his RVQ Productions movie, "Yes, Babe... Dat's My Daddy," with young actress **Jolina Magdangal**, in time for the filmfest deadline.

Star Cinema also pulled out its entry, "Jologs."

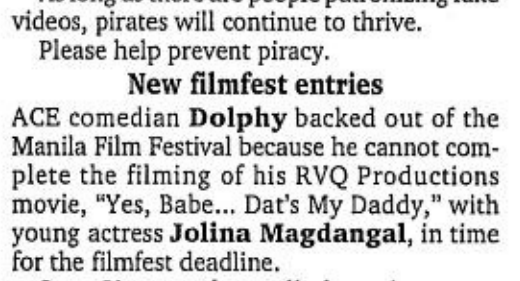
So the Manila Film Festival committee had to choose two new entries in order to complete the lineup of six official films to be shown from June 12 to 25.

The two new movies added to the list are FLT Films' "Mama San" with **Barbara Milano** and **Elizabeth Oropesa**, directed by **Joey Romero,** and World Arts Cinema's "Utang ni Tatang," starring **Joel Torre, Jeffrey Quizon, Ronnie Lazaro** and **Mylene Dizon**, and directed by **Jon Red**.

The other four entries submitted earlier are Viva Films' "Magkapatid," starring **Sharon Cuneta, Judy Ann Santos** and **Christopher de Leon**, directed by **Joel Lamangan**; Regal Films' "Sweethearts," **Joyce Jimenez** and **Piolo Pascual**, directed by **Maryo J. de los Reyes**; and Neo Films' "Super B Saves the Day," **Rufa Mae Quinto**, directed by **Joyce Bernal**.

Early this week, the filmfest organizing committee chaired by Manila Mayor **Lito Atienza** announced the incentives that the participating producers will receive. Atienza said each outfit will receive P1 million and the scriptwriters will get P100,000 each.

The biggest incentive will be the 30 percent share of the amusement tax on the film entries. The production outfits will share this, depending on the box-office performance of their entries.



A PIRATED VCD of "Payback 2" which is actually "Air America," starring Mel Gibson and Robert Downey Jr.

My mom says . . .

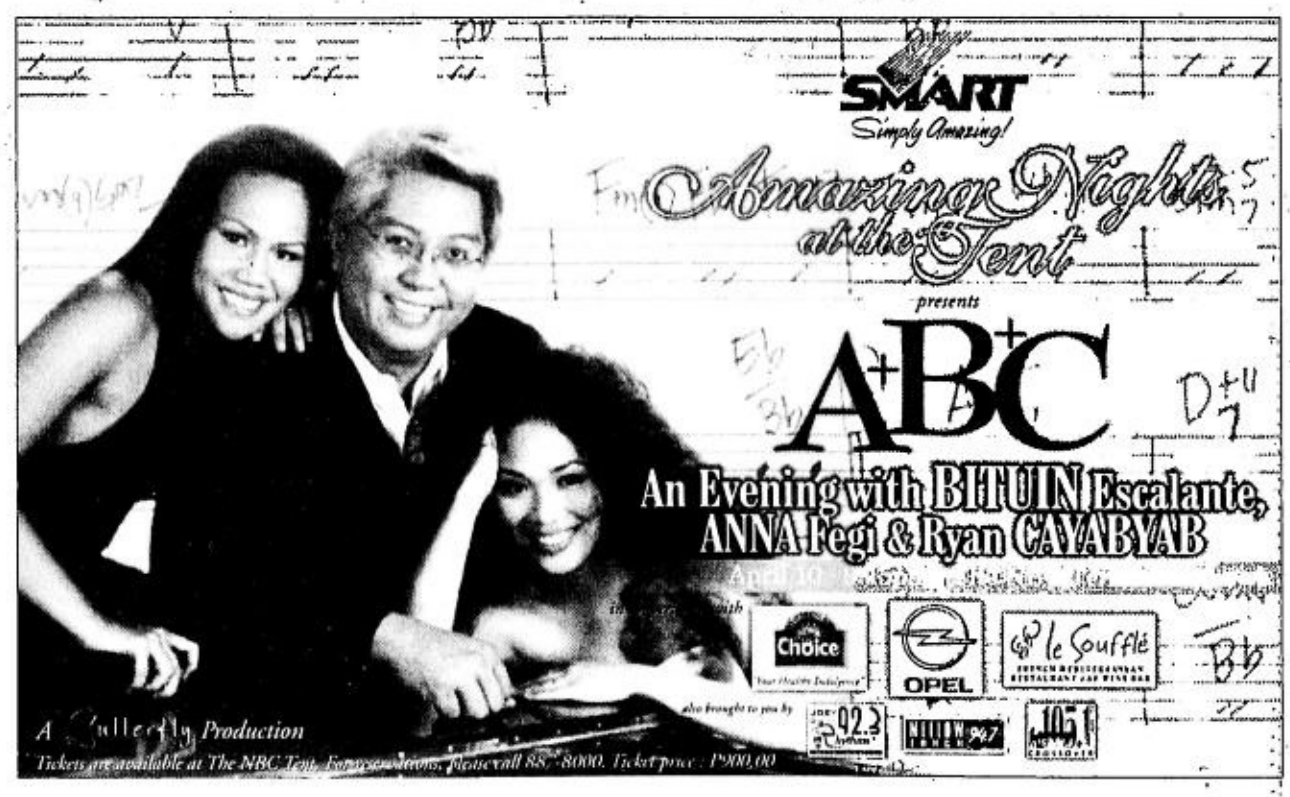
From page A31

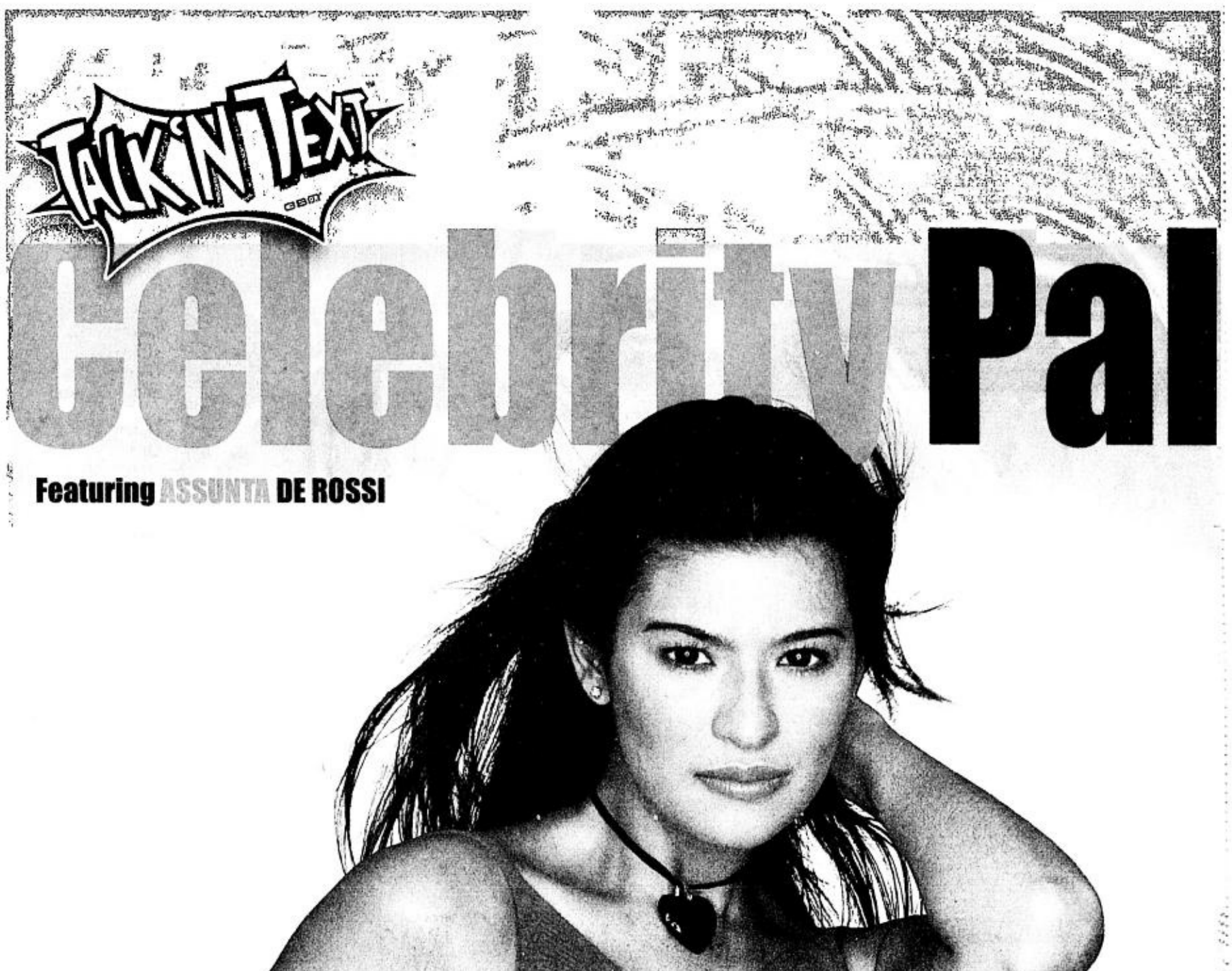
is a definite time-saver and it really gives you a polished, put-together look.

Depending on the salon you go to, expect to spend between P3,000 to P7,000 for the procedure. Is it worth it?

A good blow-out coupled with hair iron straightening, including tips, would set you back at least P500.

Hair re-bonding will last you at least six months if you normally get twice a week blow-outs, within six weeks you'd have matched the cost. The time-saving benefits alone make the investment well worth it.





THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	JOHN Q
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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	BLADE 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	TIME MACHINE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	ICE AGE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	QUEEN OF THE DAMNE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	BANDITS
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	HARI NG SELDA
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	BLADE 2
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	HUBOG / TOO MUCH FLESH
ODEON	JOHN Q
ODEON-2	BANDITS
ROBEN	SNAKE CHARMER
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	OTHER SIDE OF LOVE / AMERICAN PIE 2

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	BIBINGKA
REMAR	SNAKE CHARMER
REMAR-2	BIBINGKA

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	BIBINGKA
B	EVA LASON KAY ADAN
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	TIME MACHINE
CINEMA-2	ICE AGE

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	HARI NG SELDA
CINEMA-2	JOHN Q
CINEMA-3	THE MAJESTIC
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BLADE 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	JIMMY NEUTRON
CINEMA-6	GOT 2 BELIEVE
CINEMA-7	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
CINEMA-8	BANDITS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TIME MACHINE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BLADE 2
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	ICE AGE
CINEMA-12	ICE AGE
CINEMA-14	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
CINEMA-15	HARI NG SELDA

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	BLADE 2
CINEMA-2	TIME MACHINE
CINEMA-3	ICE AGE
CINEMA-4	ICE AGE
CINEMA-5	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
CINEMA-6	JIMMY NEUTRON

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

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GET WELL SOON

starring

Courtney Cox Arquette
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Vincent Gallo
(Buffalo'66, House of the Spirits)

Jeffrey Tambor
(Girl Interrupted, There's Something About Mary)

Tate Donovan
(Murder at 1600, Ethan Frome)

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)

NOKIA SKYFILMS INQUIRER

POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City Tel. No: 8931440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL

BLADE 2 - P 13 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	TIME MACHINE - P 13 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:35, 10:00	ICE AGE - GP 11:50, 1:40, 3:30, 5:20, 7:10, 9:00
ICE AGE - GP 12:50, 2:40, 4:30, 6:20, 8:10, 10:00	A BEAUTIFUL MIND - P 13 1:10, 3:55, 6:40, 9:30	JIMMY NEUTRON - GP 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30

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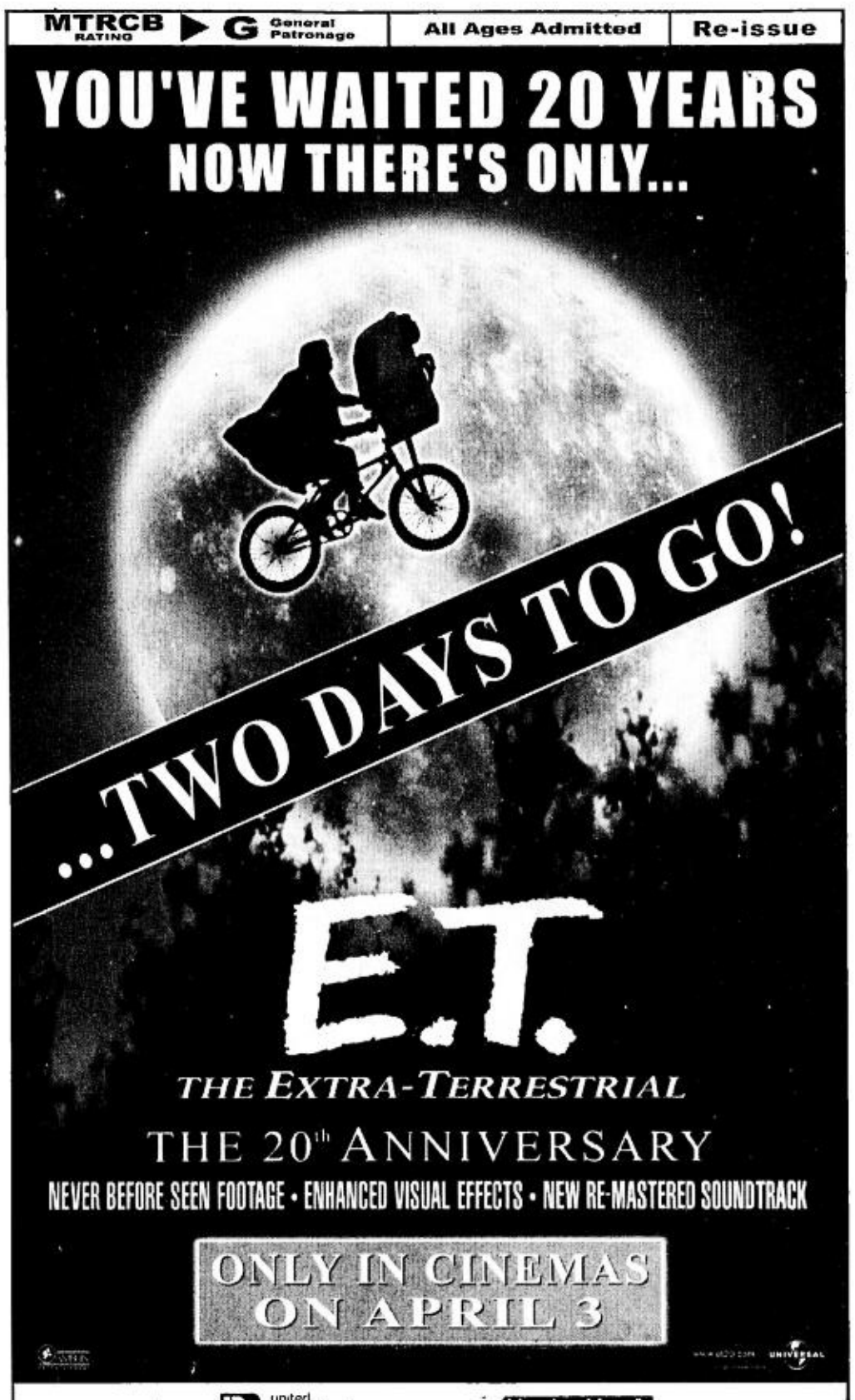

OPENS WEDNESDAY APRIL 3 !

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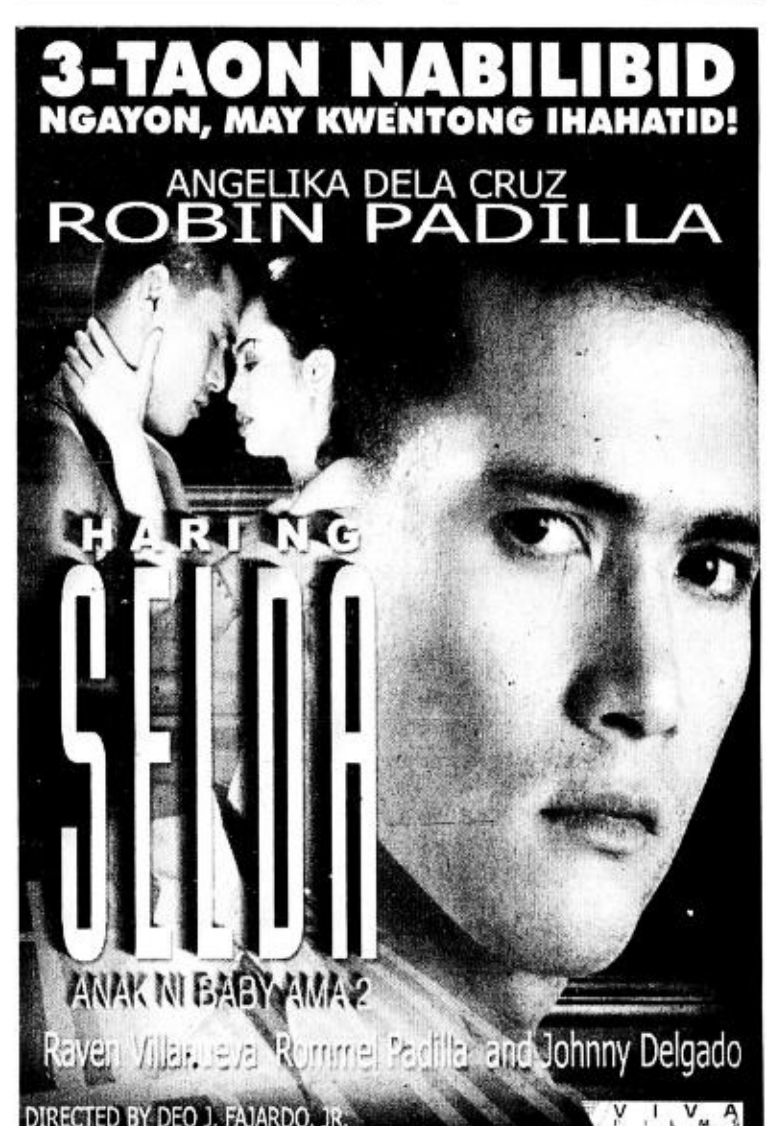

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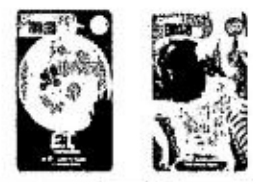

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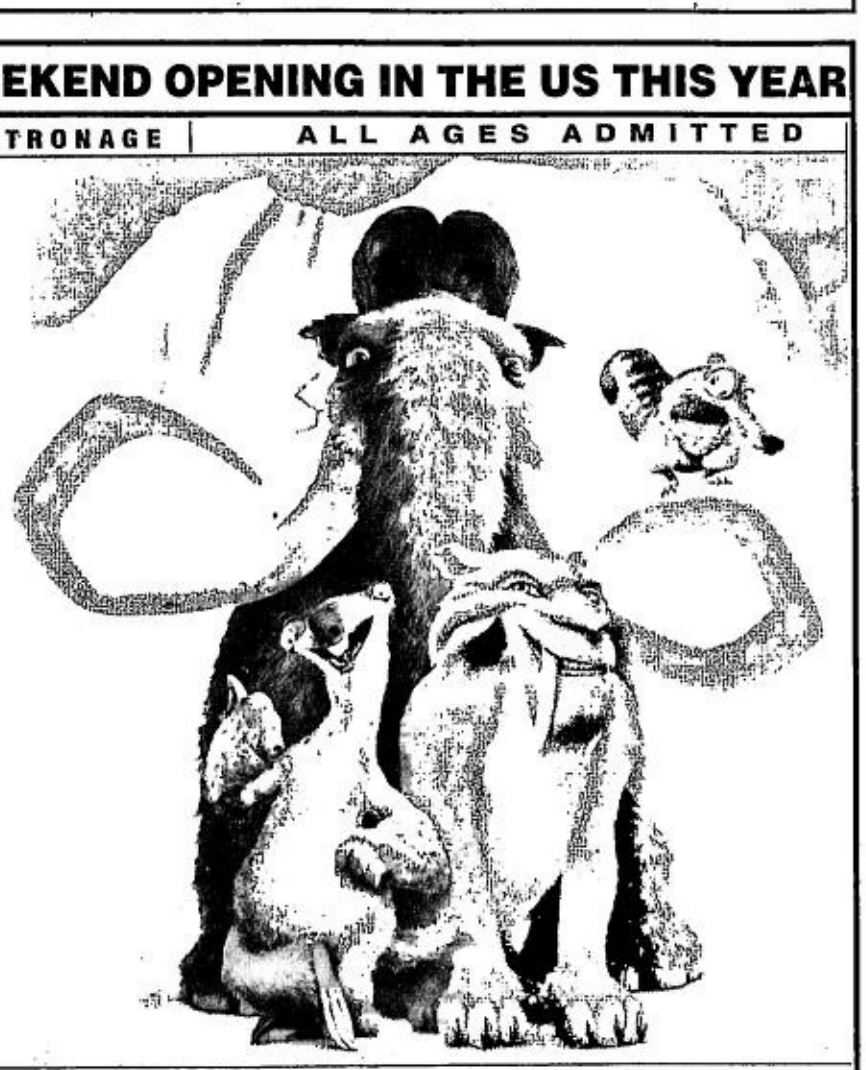

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

MTRCB RATING R Restricted

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Wild, sexy new comedy!

'Evil Woman' opens April 3 !

In the tradition of their hit laugh-a-minute movies, **Jason Biggs** of **AMERICAN PIE, Jack Black** of **SHALLOW HAL** and **Steve Zahn** of **DR. DOLITTLE 2** join comic forces in the hot and sexy new comedy from Columbia Pictures, EVIL WOMAN.

Darren (Biggs), Wayne (Zahn) and J.D. (Black) have been best of friends since 5th grade. They swore nothing could come between them...un til she came along.

Judith (Amanda Peet) sizzles with sex appeal but is really a cold-hearted and manipulative bitch. She digs her claws into Darren and snatches him from the friendship!

Darren must be rescued at all cost from the clutches of the evil woman, launching a series of side-splitting misadventures. **(Rated R for nudity and sexual humor.)**

My mom says no to my liposuction

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

I WAS all set. Holy Wednesday, I was scheduled to have liposuction done on my arms and my abdominal area. This seemed the perfect time because I'd managed to lose some weight and the fat deposits seemed soft and just in certain areas. This meant there wasn't that much left to remove.

I had 10 whole days to recuperate since we had taped our special Easter presentation for "The Buzz" in Fontana in Clark and in Boy Abunda's Lipa City sanctuary. And "Game KNB" wouldn't resume taping until April 10.

I needed blood works, an ECG and a chest X-ray. Before I could do any of those tests, my mom made it very clear that she didn't approve of my plans.

I told her I needed her blessings to make sure that I went into surgery without any burdens. Well, moms know how to get you every time. My mom said she was too old to take care of Josh in case anything untoward happened to me. Score one for emotional blackmail. I had to cancel my procedure and I promised myself to give it another go next year.

Hair re-bonding

As a consolation, I had my hair permanently straightened, using the newest ionic permanent hair straightening method. In other salons I know it's called hair re-bonding.

Bambbi Fuentes, who does my hair and make-up for "Game KNB," had been extolling the time-saving benefits of this procedure. We iron out my hair every taping and because I've become addicted to having pin straight hair, I have it done on almost daily basis.

It was time to make a long-term commitment. Bambbi had warned me that because I had medium-thick hair, I should expect to be at the salon for at least four hours. His instructions were specific. I should saturate my hair with a heavy conditioner or a hair mask the night before to strengthen my hair against the onslaught of chemicals.

I had to be sure I don't have any appointments that required me to pin, clip, pony-tail or spray my hair because I couldn't do any of those for the next 48 hours.

He also said that I had to be prepared not to shampoo my hair for a minimum of 48 hours because just like when you're having a perm to curl your hair, a perm to straighten has to be given enough time to settle.

Wednesday afternoon at 1:30 p.m., I was at Bambbi's Timog branch. My hair was first washed thoroughly. Next it was blown dry.

Next step was section per section ironing to make the hair fall straight. A thick, white, paste-like medicine was applied on my hair, an inch from the scalp all the way down to the ends.

Cherry was tasked by Bambbi to do this since he's the one with the most experience and practice in ionic hair straightening. My hair is already quite porous because of all the chemical treatments it's been subjected to, so the medicine was left on my hair for just 20 minutes.

When the timer rang and after a strand test, my hair was again washed. The tedious task of towel-drying the hair started. Three people worked manually drying my hair and this took 45 minutes. Cherry needed the hair to be almost completely dry before the second solution was applied. This is a spray-on solution that acts like a neutralizer and treatment.

This process really felt like forever. Tiny sections of the hair were sprayed then ironed. My scalp got a jolt when near the hair's root, the iron would cause the steam from the heated medicine to shoot up towards the scalp.

Cherry figured out that while the iron was closest to my scalp, Guia, his assistant, had to fan my head to make sure that the steam escaped elsewhere. What a relief!

Ironing my hair took nearly an hour and a half. My neck was starting to feel the strain. I was at Bambbi's shop from 1:30 p.m. and I was done at 5:50 p.m. That's nearly four and a half hours.

For the next 48 hours, I protected my hair from getting wet. I hate using a shower cap, but I endured it. I didn't put my hair behind my ears because this would cause an indentation and I didn't wear clips or a headband.

The result? I waited exactly 48 hours then I shampooed and applied deep conditioner on my hair, using products specifically for chemically treated hair.

I towel dried my hair and combed it. Immediately, I noticed that my hair fell differently and more straight. It did feel smoother.

I put some leave-in conditioner and lightly blow-dried using a vent brush. Wow, I was impressed. The result was nearly as sleek as ironing my hair. This

MY MOM/ A29

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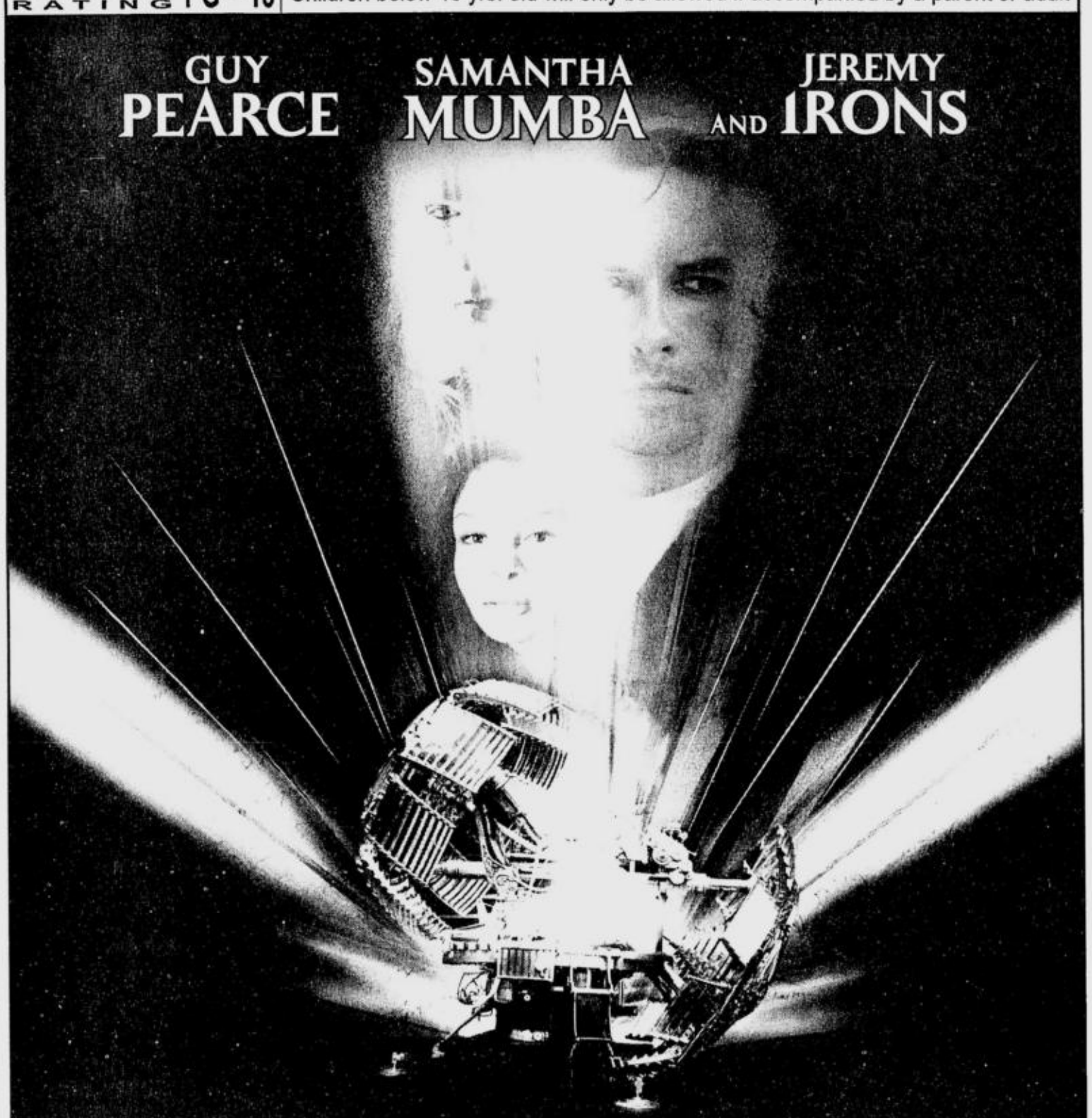
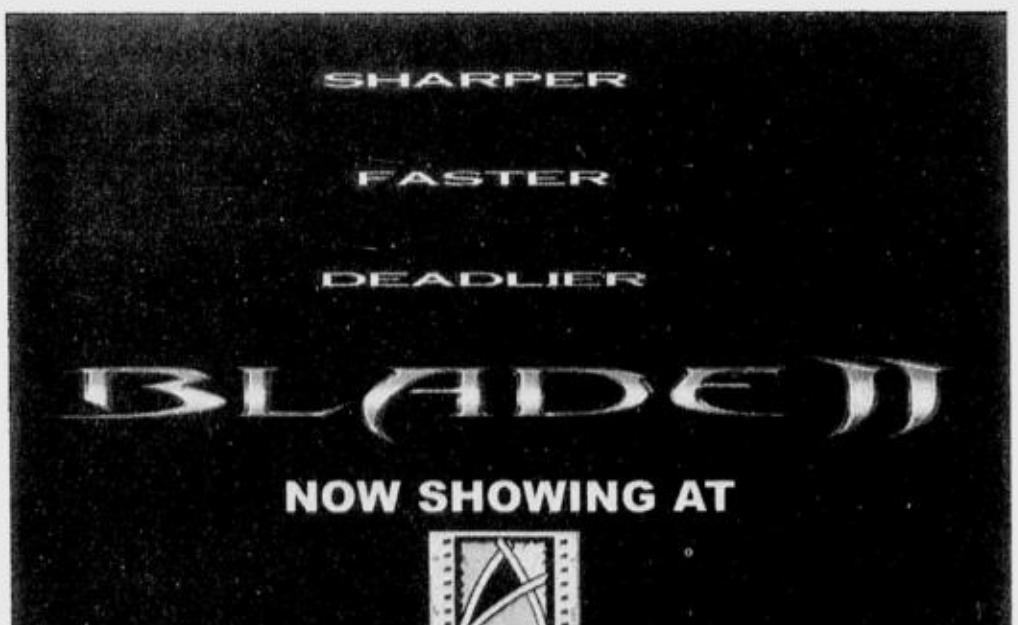
MTRCB RATING PG – 13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult





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HOW TO JOIN

Key in **QUIZ***space***JOIN***space* **<name>/<address>**

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You will then receive this message

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Once a participant registers s/he will automatically receive the first question the following day. Questions will be sent to all registered participants everyday between 7:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. This is free of charge.

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TO ANSWER QUESTIONS
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Example: **QUIZ 1 A**, and send to **288**.
Participants will be charged ₱2.50 for each answer s/he sends to 288 for the game. The participants will not be charged for questions received.

TO QUALIFY FOR THE RAFFLES

3 correct answers = 3 points = 1 raffle entry

Participants should finish answering the three (3) multiple choice questions by 12 midnight of the same day the questions were received in order to earn one raffle entry. A maximum of one (1) raffle entry can be made in one day. In the event that the participant fails to complete all three (3) correct answers for the day, his/her points will be carried over to the next day or until s/he completes three (3) correct answers within that same week. Participants may accumulate as many raffle entries as they can for the period of one week.

TO VIEW RAFFLE ENTRIES
Key in **QUIZ ENTRY** and send to **288**. The processing of points and raffle entries earned by each participant is done every 12 midnight, at the end of each day. The participant should check his/her standing before starting each game/day. *Rate for Quiz Entry is ₱2.50.*

TO GET KEYWORDS FOR THE GAME
Key in **HELP QUIZ** and send to **288**.

See flyers for complete mechanics.

Promo period, draw dates and prizes are as follows:

WEEK	Draw Dates	Prizes
Week 1	April 8, 2002	2 winners of ₱25,000 each
Week 2	April 15, 2002	2 winners of ₱25,000 each
Week 3	April 22, 2002	2 winners of ₱25,000 each
First Monthly Draw	April 29, 2002	2 winners of ₱50,000 each
Week 5	May 6, 2002	2 winners of ₱25,000 each
Week 6	May 13, 2002	2 winners of ₱25,000 each
Week 7	May 20, 2002	2 winners of ₱25,000 each
Second Monthly Draw	May 27, 2002	2 winners of ₱50,000 each
Week 9	June 3, 2002	2 winners of ₱25,000 each
Week 10	June 10, 2002	2 winners of ₱25,000 each
Week 11	June 17, 2002	2 winners of ₱25,000 each
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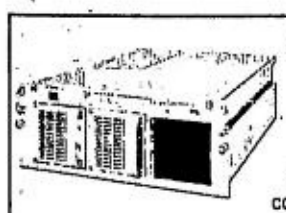
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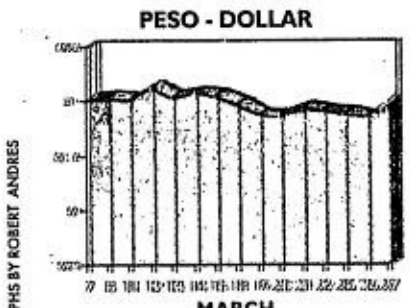

GRAPHS BY ROBERT ANDRES

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As of 5 p.m., March 27, 2002

¥132.82 = $1

As of 5 p.m., March 27, 2002

GOLD: $297/297.50

per ounce Hong Kong, March 27, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Stocks lower

SHARES ended slightly lower Wednesday as investors stayed sidelined ahead of the long Easter holiday.

The Philippine main index closed almost flat, just 0.25 percent lower or 3.51 points down, at 1,403.62 points as the bourse closed at noon on Wednesday.

The market was closed Thursday and Friday due to public holidays.

Value turnover dropped to P397.70 million from Tuesday's P470.40 million, with 32 gainers and 20 losers. There were 35 stocks unchanged.

Analysts expected the market to continue consolidating after the Easter break given the lack of inspiring leads.

BPI Securities stock analyst Roberto Cano said he expected the release of first quarter corporate earnings to set the direction for the market during the week.

"Some investors do not want to have positions in the market given the long weekend and considering that there were bomb scares the past week," said AB Capital stock analyst Jose Vistan. *Reuters*

No trade-off on used car issue, Roxas tells SBMA

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

ROXAS

TRADE Secretary Manuel Roxas II has shot down Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Chair Felicito Payumo's proposed trade-off to end a simmering row over used-vehicle imports, saying he is taking an uncompromising stand on the issue.

"It's not a matter of whether we are willing or not to reach a compromise on the issue because we have no discretion in the implementation of the (law), executive orders, memorandum and Bangko Sentral issuance on used-vehicle imports," he said.

Roxas stressed: "What is clear is the government's policy to conserve dollars, promote the development of the industry, ensure the safety of motorists and promote a clean environment. All government agencies should be harmonized to achieve these goals."

He said the trade department formed a task force specifically to address gray areas in the law on used-vehicle imports, as well as coordinate the implementation of the law's rules.

The plethora of agencies involved in the importation of used vehicles has made the law and its implementing rules unclear to regulators.

Used vehicle imports are currently being regulated by the Bureau of Import Services, an attached agency of the Department of Trade and Industry, as well as by the Bureau of Customs, Department of Transportation and Communications, and Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Payumo had asked the trade department to drop its "all-or-nothing" stance on the issue, as he appealed for a win-win solution that would appease Japanese and US auto assemblers while allowing importers and converters in Subic to continue their trade, albeit on a limited scale.

Motor Vehicles Importers Association of Subic Bay Freeport Inc. president Eddie Barretto said their business was providing a cheap alternative to farmers, fish and vegetable dealers, haulers, small contractors, and other low-income professionals who could not afford brand new vehicles.

Roxas and Payumo, both former members of the House of Representatives, have locked horns on the legality of imported used vehicles.

Roxas has declared as illegal the mass importation and sale of used vehicles in Subic and Malinta in Valenzuela.

He argued that as a general rule, used vehicles could not be shipped into the country unless these are special-purpose vehicles, such as fire trucks or ambulance; 10-seater and diesel-powered units; and, automobiles

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ZERO DUTY ON TUNA EXPORTS TO U.S.

RP seeks reward for anti-terrorism support

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo will ask Washington to grant zero duty on Philippine canned tuna exports to the US as a reward for her government's all-out support to President Bush's global war on terrorism.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas said the government has taken on the "canned tuna-for-anti-terrorism support" slogan to avail itself of similar duty-free perks that the US Congress was planning to extend to the tuna exports of South American countries along the Andes Mountain range.

Under the proposed Andean Trade Preferences Expansion Act, Roxas said the US government would expand preferential trade treatment granted to countries in the Andean region, including zero duties on their canned tuna exports to the US, as an incentive to wean these countries away from the production of narcotic crops.

Roxas said: "The US says it wants to fight narcotics that is why it has to help the economies of cocaine-producing countries. But the US is also fighting terrorism and the Philippines is one of its staunchest allies. Shouldn't the US help the Philippine economy by giving us trade preference?"

Roxas said granting duty-free access to Philippine canned tuna exports to the US would directly benefit the tuna fishing industry in Zamboanga and General Santos City. "The tuna producers are mostly in Mindanao where the US military is holding war games with Philippine troops," Roxas said.

The US is currently the biggest market for Philippine canned tuna exports in the world. The country ranks No. 2 among canned tuna exporters in the US with an 18-percent market share behind Thailand (60 percent) and ahead of Indonesia (12 percent), Papua New Guinea (4 percent) and Ecuador (2 percent).

Roxas is worried that the duty-free perks to be given to Andean countries would unduly affect Philippine canned tuna exports which are slapped duties of 12.5 percent (tuna in water) and 30 percent (tuna in olive oil). The Philippines enjoys a 6.5-percent preferential tariff on its first 200,000 cans of exports to the US.

This will be the second battle front that the Philippines has opened in its campaign to gain bigger access in major markets for its canned tuna exports.

The Philippines is currently negotiating with the European Community for duty-free perks for its canned tuna exports similar to those being proposed for African Caribbean Pacific (ACP) countries. The EC slaps a 24-percent duty on Philippine canned tuna imports.

The EC had proposed to give zero duty to its former colonies to help their flagging economies but the Philippines has demanded the same perks noting that it was a colony of Spain for 300 years.

The dispute with the EC on canned tuna exports triggered the Philippines' decision to withdraw from the Cairns group, composed of agriculture exporting countries outside the US and Europe, after its members failed to provide support to the country's cause.

Gov't raises ₱5.5B for LGUs

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT has raised P5.5 billion to cover the shortfall in the internal revenue allotment for local government units (LGUs) through the securitization of receivables that were held in trust by state-controlled Development Bank of the Philippines.

According to documents obtained by the INQUIRER, the special purpose trust formed by the DBP and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap) auctioned off the IRA Monetization Program (IMP) investment certificates to institutional investors last March 22.

This means the special purpose trust borrowed against portion of the P6.7-billion IRA that the government failed to release in fiscal year 2000 due to budget constraints. With the scheme, most of the LGUs exercised the option to "monetize" their receivables by assigning them DBP, the appointed trustee.

The IMP investment certificates were issued in six maturity series between 2002 and 2007.

The shortest maturing securities (Series A), due this April 30, carried a yield-to-maturity of 7 percent per year while the longest (Series F), due on April 30, 2007, carried a yield of 15 percent.

The IMP Series B, maturing on April 30, 2003, will yield 10.625 percent while succeeding series maturing in 2004, 2005 and 2006, respectively, will yield 12.625 percent, 13.625 percent and 14.625 percent.

The IMP program was conceptualized during the term of ousted President Joseph Estrada. It was revived by the Macapagal administration to give the LGUs immediate access to funds. The scheme was hatched by a Malacañang-initiated task force consisting of representatives from Ulap, Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Budget and Management and Department of Finance.

Although the nominal issuer was the special purpose trust, the borrowings were acknowledged as a direct, absolute and unconditional obligation of the national government as provided in a letter of confirmation issued by the Department of Finance.

Sources familiar with the offering said about 30,000 LGUs enrolled in the program and assigned to the special purpose trust P5.5 billion worth of receivables, all of which were sold by underwriters DBP and Land Bank of the Philippines.

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Who Should Attend: Senior executives and practicing financial managers.
Methodology: Facilitated Discussions. Workshops. Guided readings and simulations. Actual local Case Discussion.

II. FINANCIAL MARKETS BRIEFING

(April 29, 2002, 1:30 – 5:30PM). Fee: P6,000.

- **Analysis of Recent Trends, and Short-term (1-6 months) forecasts on prices:** Inflation, Interest Rates, Exchange Rate, and Stock Prices.

Who Should Attend: Senior Executives, financial managers, corporate planners.
Methodology: Audio-visual presentation, question-and-answer sessions

III. INTRODUCTION TO RISK MANAGEMENT—CONCEPTS AND BEST PRACTICE

(May 21–23, 2002, 8:30 am – 12Noon, 1:30 – 5:00PM). Fee: P15,000.00

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- *3a. Identifying and Quantifying Operational Risks:* VAR & Other Risk Management Methods
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Who should attend: middle to high-level managers, without previous background on derivatives or structured finance.
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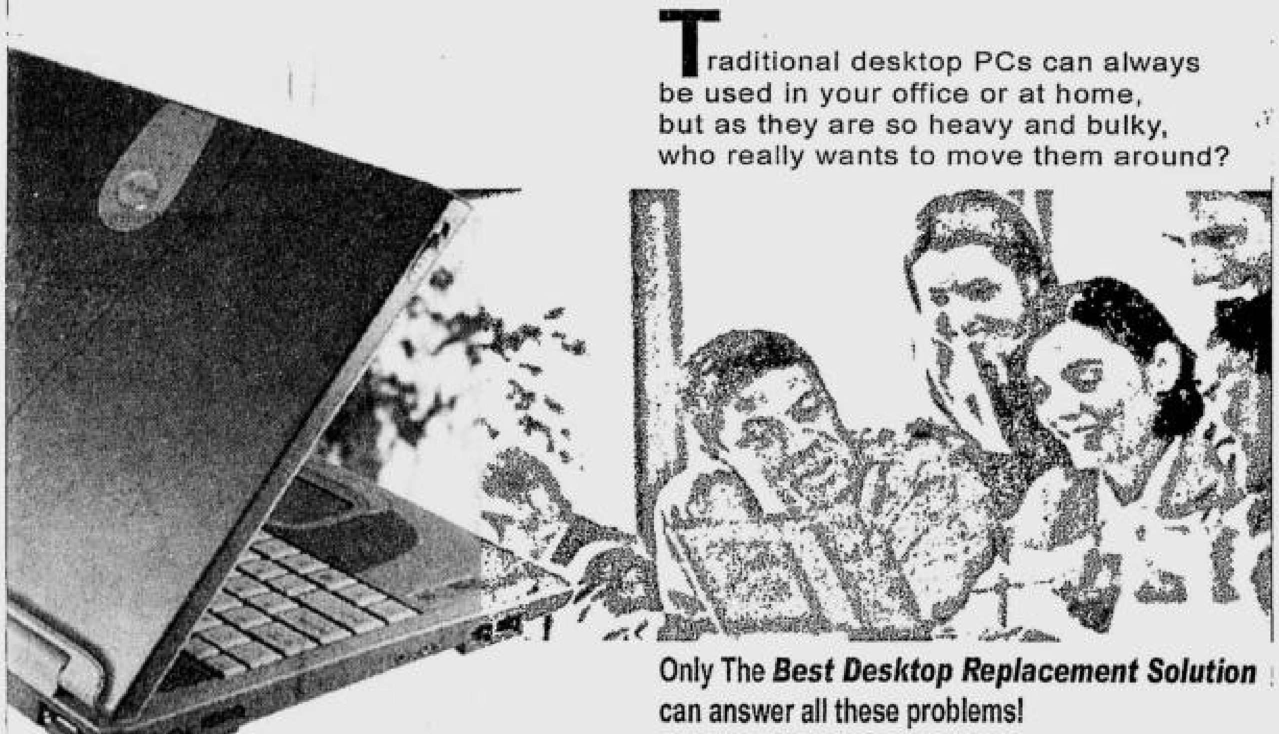

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BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

Makati City, Metro Manila

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

April 12, 2002

To The Stockholders:

Pursuant to Article IV of the By-Laws of the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI), notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of BPI will be held at the Grand Ballroom, Hotel Inter-Continental, Makati City, Metro Manila. on Friday, 12 April, 2001, at 9:00 o'clock in the morning, for the transaction of the following business:

1. Calling of Meeting to Order.
2. Certification of Notice.
3. Roll Call of Stockholders.
4. Determination and declaration of quorum.
5. Reading and approval of the minutes of the Annual Meeting of Stockholders on April 19, 2001.
6. Reading of Annual Report and approval of the Bank's Statement of Condition as of 31 December 2001 incorporated in the Annual Report.
7. Approval and confirmation of all acts during the past year of the Board of Directors, Executive Committee, Audit Committee, Trust Committee, Pension Committee, all other Board and Management Committees, and Officers of BPI.
8. Election of 15 Members of the Board of Directors.
9. Election of External Auditors and fixing their remuneration.
10. Declaration of Stock Dividends.
11. Directors' Bonus.
12. Other Matters.

In accordance with Article XII of the By-Laws, the Stock and Transfer Book of BPI will be closed from March 13, 2002 to April 12, 2002. Only Stockholders of record as of end of business hours on March 13, 2002 will be entitled to notice and to vote at the said meeting.

If it will be inconvenient for you to attend the meeting, you may at your option, appoint another person to represent you thereat by means of a proxy, which should be submitted to the Office of the Corporate Secretary of BPI, 19th Floor, BPI Building, Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City, Metro Manila, not later than 5:00 P.M. of March 27, 2002. Validation of proxies shall be held at the same office on April 1, 2002 at 4:00 P.M.

When signing as attorney-in-fact, executor, administrator, guardian, or in any other representative capacity, please give full title and file papers showing your authority.

FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
(Sgd.) CARLOS B. AQUINO
Vice President & Corporate Secretary

SGV: Such gross violations

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

WHILE their American principals were holding demonstrations in Washington, D.C., and other US cities to show their human faces, the local counterparts of Arthur Andersen at SGV were burying their heads in the sand from all the severe embarrassments that their American parent has been causing them.

Not a single representative from the country's largest auditing firm was present during a recent Finex forum on the effects of the Enron fallout on the accounting profession, unusual for an accounting firm and its unretired chair who have made transparency and corporate governance their battle cry.

No wonder that forum chair, accountant Conchita Manabat, could not help resist making a gentle swipe at the hidden accounting time bombs of Victorias Milling and Ramcar, both having shared the same auditors (incidentally, not Manabat's own firm) as Enron.

To help instill religion inside the boardroom, Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Lilia Bautista told the forum that the SEC was considering having minority/outside directors elected even in the leading private companies, as well as making their boards criminally accountable for any corporate misdeeds.

But all these talks about reforms are meaningless unless we send people to jail, cried one participant. Are we prepared to send our golf colleagues, friends and classmates to the slammer?

Which reminds us of a story, volunteered to us many a cocktails ago by stockbroker Vivian Yuchengco, the new PSE chair who has vowed to rid the exchange of the old boys' network.

Yuchengco said she had wanted to lead a group of Victorias shareholders in suing the management and its auditors after the post-IPO price of sugar miller imploded when it was belatedly discovered that Victorias had pre-dated Enron with its trunk-loads of accounting tricks.

What stopped the planned stockholders' suit, as the feisty stockbroker herself intimated, was that she did not want to cause trouble for her "poor Tito Wash."

Wash, of course, is the venerable Washington Sycip, the "S" of SGV; Tito because Yuchengco's uncle, taipan Alfonso Yuchengco Jr., was married to a Sycip sister.

How Sycip could get whiplashed by SGV's problems was not clear, since Sycip was by then already serving on the board of Arthur Andersen, not subsidiary SGV.

To make a long story short, it was the parent's iniquities—not the local, revitalized SEC, not any minority suit—that in the end visited upon her overseas children.

The irony of it all is that SGV, decades ahead of the foreign services liberalization law, had allowed itself to be taken over by a majority American partner in the belief that the foreign provenance would bring in a tide of foreign business.

Alas, the foreign rainmaker also brought flood, as events now unfold in the United States, that threatens to sink SGV as well.

GMA 7's newest soap

DISMISSED executives of GMA 7 have started, given the current judicial pace, what could be the longest running soap in broadcast network's history.

Roberto Barreiro, until recently president of GMA Marketing, and Dan de Padua, ex-vice president for programming and network operation, have filed charges of illegal dismissal and constructive dismissal, respectively, before the National Labor Relations Commission.

In addition to seeking reinstatement, Barreiro is asking for P100 million in moral and exemplary damages. He is being represented by the Poblador Bautista & Reyes law offices.

Both Barreiro and De Padua were given their walking papers after GMA 7 chair Felipe Gozon expressed "loss of trust and confidence" in the two, both appointees of former GMA 7 chair Menardo Jimenez.

Jimenez himself "retired" in end-2000 after being voted out as chair of the country's second largest TV-radio network.

According to the grapevine, Barreiro, who joined GMA 7 over nine years ago, had rejected a separation package, offered by Gozon himself, equivalent to one-third of a month's salary for every year of service. The package is similar to those offered to retiring rank-and-filers.

A third executive, GMA Marketing executive vice president August Benitez, chose to leave on his own after his immediate boss, Barreiro, was sacked.

Barreiro was said to be considering an offer to join a rival station.

Heard through the grapevine

THE GROUP of Robert Coyiuto Jr. has a new, unflattering biblical nickname for ex-PNB president Peter Favila for having allegedly made a last-minute switch contrary to an alleged commitment, thereby causing Coyiuto to lose by one in the board voting for the chairmanship of the Philippine Stock Exchange.

* * *

EX-UCPB president Lorenzo Tan is set to assume the presidency of Philippine National Bank.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Local firms corner $5B worth of gov't dollar-based debt papers

By Clarissa S. Batino

INVESTMENTS of local companies, mostly banks and financial institutions, in government debt papers reached $5 billion as of end-2001. The amount is projected to grow by at least another $5 million this year.

Sources said Philippine compánies could easily account for one-fourth of the long-term dollar bonds issued by the government amounting to $1.75 billion issued in January and March.

Reacting to claims that the increase in the dollar investments of local firms was tantamount to capital flight, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said local firms just wanted to hedge.

"This is not capital flight. Local firms just want to hedge, especially those who are still nervous with the peso," said BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura.

HSBC treasurer John McGowan said the growing investments of locally registered firms in dollar-denominated bonds of the government were not unique to the Philippines. He said they were in fact a growing trend in Asia in recent years.

"This is a phenomenon in Asia. Just think of how much the residents accounted for the recent $1-billion bond issue of the government," the HSBC official said.

The Philippine government issued $750 million worth of 15-year bonds in January and another $1-billion worth of seven-year debt papers in March.

Asian investors, mostly Philippine firms, bought nearly half of each foreign deal completed by the government recently, including a $300-million euro bond issue of the BSP in January, preceding a $500-million float in November last year.

McGowan said the shift to dollar-denominated government securities was also a reflection of the declining yields in the peso borrowings of the government.

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Gov't in talks with S. Korea, China for currency swap deals

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MACAPAGAL administration is negotiating with the governments of South Korea and China for more than $4 billion worth of currency swap agreements as a means of boosting the peso's value and keeping it stable.

Being pursued under the Chiang Mai initiative of 2000, the bilateral deals could readily provide some $400 million in fairly priced monetary support to the country especially during drastic fluctuations in the peso-dollar exchange rate.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said that the Department of Finance had initiated talks with officials of South Korea and China on the issue.

The separate bilateral swap deals will be similar to an agreement with Japan that was sealed in July 2001.

The currency swap arrangement with Japan provides for a $3-billion fund that the BSP may tap to finance unusually heavy demand for dollars in the local market.

Any borrowing through the currency swap will be paid a rate based on the London Interbank Offered Rate plus a small spread.

Buenaventura said the Philippine government might be able to convince China to provide a $3-billion facility while South Korea might offer a lower amount, possibly about $1 billion.

"The intention is to have bilateral arrangements with the members of the Asean plus three," he said.

The central bank chief said the bilateral arrangements might pave the way for the creation of an Asian Monetary Fund in the future.

Buenaventura and other government officials were pushing for the revival of a plan to establish a $100-billion AMF, a monetary fund to support economies in the region.

The financial package provided by the Chiang Mai initiative, however, is being constrained by a provision stating that only countries under loan programs with the International Monetary Fund could tap the full amount agreed upon in the swap arrangement.

Countries that are not under IMF programs, including the Philippines, will be allowed to tap only 10 percent of the facility.

In the case of the currency swap deal with Japan, the country may secure no more than $300 million to help solve an urgent currency-related problem.

Pension funds not for housing agency

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

IF I have said it once, I have said it a hundred times: Politicians are, oh, so generous—with money that is not theirs. And they are most open-handed with the employed sector's pension funds at the SSS and the GSIS, and the provident fund at Pag-IBIG. This generosity stems from the mistaken notion that these funds have been collected, and are still being collected, at no cost to these agencies.

Congress has asked the SSS and the GSIS to "contribute" P10 billion each, and Pag-IBIG to "donate" P15 billion to the first year operating expenses of the proposed Department of Housing and Urban Development. What gall! The total of P35 billion is enough to build as many as 175,000 low-cost housing units. And never mind that these agencies are already burdened with billions upon billions of pesos in non-performing mass housing loans.

The money is needed because the new national budget starting next July does not include any appropriation for the new department. Congress could not very well appropriate funds for a department that did not yet exist.

Don't get me wrong. I said once before that perhaps the proposed Department of Housing and Urban Development was an idea whose time had come. Putting together the different agencies involved in mass housing and urban development under one roof looks like a good management move. For one thing, cutting red tape should be much easier. For another, there could be economies of scale.

But getting P35 billion from the SSS, the GSIS and Pag-IBIG for the operational expenses of the proposed department raises some legal questions. There is nothing in the charters of these agencies allowing a free gift out of the goodness of the hearts of the members, especially at these huge amounts. Even a loan is not allowed.

I am sure the millions of members are glad that SSS CEO Corazon de la Paz and GSIS PGM Winston Garcia have turned down the request. We can expect Pag-IBIG president and CEO Romero S. Quimbo to follow suit, if he has not already done so.

The money that Congress is asking for will have to come from the investible funds of these agencies. The charters of the SSS and the GSIS clearly specify how these funds should be invested. The request of Congress does not fall under any of the investment areas spelled out by the charters. I am not too familiar with Pag-IBIG's investment rules, but I am willing to bet that the donation Congress is asking for is outside these rules.

Besides, the SSS law says, "No portion of the investment reserve fund or income thereof shall accrue to the general fund of the national government or to any of its agencies, instrumentalities, including government-owned or -controlled corporations, except as may be allowed under this act."

In the same vein, the GSIS law says, " . . . no portion of the funds of the GSIS or income thereof shall accrue to the general fund of the national government and its political subdivisions, instrumentalities and other agencies, including government-owned or -controlled corporations, except as may be allowed under this act."

If the Pag-IBIG charter does not have a similar restriction, it should have one.

Why doesn't Congress borrow the money from the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations? The bleeding hearts at Creba have repeatedly said in public that the proposed department is their original idea and their persistent advocacy. Anyway, the members have raked in billions of pesos in untaxed profits from the start of the mass housing program. Maybe it is time to lend some of it back. And since Creba has been pushing for cutting interest rates on mass housing loans, this loan should be at lower than market interest rates.

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No trade-off . . .

From page B1

of *balikbayans*.

Roxas said most of the used-vehicle imports not only failed to meet these exemptions but also violated the government's ban on the importation of right-hand-drive vehicles.

He cast serious doubts on the roadworthiness of used vehicles being imported through Subic and Valenzuela and their compliance to the government's emission standards.

Payumo, on the other hand, took exception to Roxas' claim, saying Subic, as a special economic zone, could bring in any used vehicle from abroad.

He said a number of executive orders had been issued to support this position.

Payumo stressed that the used vehicles being brought in through Subic were being converted under their manufacturers' standards and were placed through roadworthiness and emission tests before they were registered with the Land Transportation Office.

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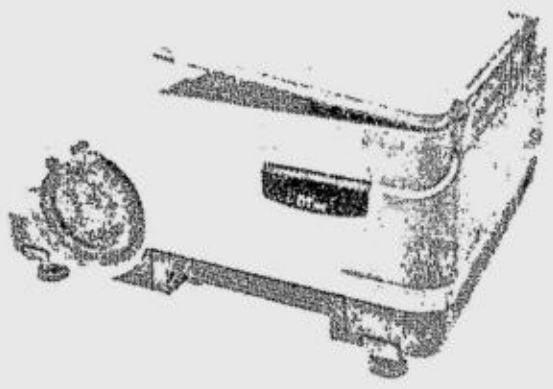

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PSE income down 74% in 2001

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange said its net income fell 74 percent to P18.29 million last year on a drop in listing-related revenues.

A recently released annual report showed that the stock exchange's total operating income was cut in half to P160.36 million from P324.36 million last year on account of a 57-percent drop in its listing and processing fees to P113.21 million.

"It was an extremely difficult period," former PSE chair Felipe Yap said in his outgoing report. "The country was weighed down by a turbulent political crisis."

Apart from listing-related fees, the stock exchange also earns from membership fees, data feed and other services apart.

Its non-operating income comes from bank deposits and other investments. Earnings from these placements grew to P55.46 million last year from P35.42 million in 2000, according to Yap's report.

One positive development was that the rehabilitation of Urban Bank Inc. prevented the loss of a significant part of the PSE's deposits.

Yap said in his report that last year's difficult economic environment forced the PSE to keep a tight lid on its operating expenses, which dropped by 27 percent to P191.55 million.

"As a result of the weak economy and the political turmoil, our stock market, already saddled by the stringent provisions of the Securities Regulation Code, recorded its worst performance in years," he said.

According to Yap's account, the political crisis spawned by the impeachment trial of former President Joseph Estrada dealt heavy losses on the stock exchange.

Trading volume fell last year to an average P500 million a day from over P2 billion in previous years. The PSE composite index went below the 1,000 level to a 10-year low at 979.34.

Another factor that hit the local bourse was the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States. A month after that incident, the PSE's daily trading volume slipped to an all-time low of P130 million.

Among the positive development cited by Yap was the launch of the PSE's third board for small- and medium-scale enterprises with the listing of software service firm SQL Wizard Inc.

There were also two small initial public offerings last year—Primex Corp. and Federal Chemicals Inc.

The PSE also debuted as a for-profit stock corporation in August last year.

Stocks seen drifting sideways after long Lenten break

LOCAL stocks are still expected to drift sideways this week.

DBS Vickers Securities analyst Jomar Lacson said investors were still cautious about picking stocks, and that the market would likely continue consolidating this week.

The main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index shed 14.13 points, or one percent, during the last trading week for the quarter, closing at 1,403.62 on Wednesday ahead of the long Lenten weekend.

Lacson said the top picks were still the blue chips, like Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Manila Electric Co., Ayala Corp. and Petron Corp.

Stocks investment guide Philstocks.net said trading was still being weighed down by the series of bomb threats hitting Metro Manila.

It said signs that the US economy was headed for an earlier-than-expected recovery should have a positive effect on the stock market.

"There's still no need to rush into stocks for now. Immediately after the Holy Week, the market will continue on its consolidation, as investors will be wary of economic and corporate prospects. It remains uncertain that earnings are solid enough to justify the rally that started in November last year," Philstocks.net said.

"Until we get the string of earnings reports, we believe the market is going to struggle to find any persistent direction. As such, the bias may remain downward as investors will be more inclined to take profits on uncertainty rather than risk disappointment," it said.

Waterfront forms new outfit, set to produce Las Vegas-type shows

By Doris C. Dumlao

WATERFRONT Philippines Inc. is diversifying into the entertainment business with plans to produce Las Vegas-type shows initially for its three signature hotels in Cebu and Davao.

In a news briefing, Waterfront executive vice president Rexlon Gatchalian said a new company—Waterfront Entertainment Corp.—was formed to handle the new business.

WEC will bring to public its first production in two months, he said.

Gatchalian told reporters that the new company was in talks with other entertainment outfits to co-produce a "world-class musical play."

He declined to provide details about the production, except saying that it would probably run at the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Waterfront Airport Hotel and Casino in Mactan, Cebu, and the Waterfront Insular Hotel in Davao.

"WEC will not only generate additional revenue for the group. It will also ensure that our guests' experience when staying with us will be fulfilling because they will have the opportunity to watch world-class shows right inside the hotel's different venues," Gatchalian said.

He said WEC would also harness the potential synergy between Waterfront's hotel and gaming divisions.

"It makes a lot of sense for us to venture into entertainment production because we operate the largest ballroom and exhibition halls in the south, which are the preferred venues for concerts, pageants and plays," he said.

Waterfront is currently dependent on outside outfits to provide entertainment in its hotels.

Gatchalian also explained that the projects to be rolled out by WEC would complement the gaming operations hosted by the Waterfront hotels in line with the group's goal of becoming "the Las Vegas of the Philippines."

He said Waterfront would continue to invest heavily in the tourism and leisure sectors.

PCGG names new directors to board of satellite company

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government has named three directors—Manuel Andal, Enrique Locsin Jr. and Julio Jalandoni—to the board of Philippine Communication Satellite Corp.

Philcomsat corporate secretary Amado Santiago said the PCGG appointments were approved by President Macapagal-Arroyo before the Lenten holiday break.

Andal, a former official of the Presidential Management Staff, will replace Edgardo Villanueva.

Locsin, brother of Makati Rep. Teddy Boy Locsin, will take the place of Carmelo Africa Jr.

Jalandoni will get the seat of Pacifico Marcelo III.

Santiago said current Philcomsat director Honorio Poblador would be named president of the company in line with the boardroom changes.

Poblador was president of Philcomsat from 1986 to 1998.

Africa was chair and president of Philcomsat under the Estrada administration until his resignation last year to give way to the nominees of Ms Macapagal.

The entry of the PCGG's nominees to the Philcomsat board is expected to pave the way for its corporate reorganization following years of boardroom squabbles between two warring shareholder groups.

Philcomsat is a subsidiary of the Philippine Overseas Telecommunications Corp., where the government has a 40-percent stake.

PNOC chalks up ₱226.6M

THE PNOC Energy Development Corp. has reported that its drilling unit posted P222.6 million in revenues in 2001, up 65 percent from P134.8 million in 2000.

PNOC-EDC chair Sergio Apostol said in a statement the income came from drilling projects done for other companies.

"Bulk of the P222.6 million came from the contract we secured from the Lihir Management Co. of Papua New Guinea," Apostol said.

PNOC-EDC and LMC earlier this year sealed a deal worth $4.2 million.

The local firm will drill 16 wells for geothermal exploration in Papua New Guinea.

PNOC/ B7

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Wednesday, March 27, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	67	67.5	67	67	190,200
China Banking Corp.	610	610	610	610	3,500
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	37	37	36.5	36.5	164,900
First E-Bank Corp.	2.36	2.44	2.34	2.44	179,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	44	44	43.5	44	156,100
Phil. Savings Bank	29	29	29	29	5,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	21.25	21.5	21.25	21.5	7,500
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	162,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.39	0.5	0.39	0.48	480,000
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.08	1.1	249,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1030	1055	1015	1055	64,120
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broad. Corp.	33.5	33.5	33	33.5	7,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.68	0.69	830,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	790	805	790	800	24,330
Ipeople Inc.	0.84	0.84	0.83	0.83	50,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	2,300,000
Pilte!	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	500,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	535	535	530	535	47,070
Ivantage Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	100,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.02	0.021	0.02	0.021	34,800,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	30	30	30	30	21,200
Manila Electric Co. B	44.5	44.5	44	44.5	231,600
Petron Corp.	1.82	1.82	1.78	1.78	4,855,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	299,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	10,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	7,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12.75	13	12.75	13	177,200
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	22.75	23.25	22.75	23.25	27,000
RFM Corp.	1.52	1.54	1.52	1.54	124,000
Swift Food Inc.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	5,000
San Miguel Corp. A	47	47.5	47	47.5	191,000
San Miguel Corp. B	62.5	62.5	61	62	487,200
Universal Robina Corp.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	258,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	20,000
Ayala Corp.	6.5	6.5	6.3	6.4	10,926,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2	2	1.94	1.98	2,435,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	4,060,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.0075	0.007	0.0075	3,000,000
Anglo Phil. Holdings Corp.	0.32	0.39	0.32	0.39	170,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.78	0.79	0.78	0.79	3,000,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.105	0.1	0.1	500,000
F&J Prince Holdings Corp.	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	30,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	21,100
Ionics Inc.	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.8	23,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.86	1.9	1.86	1.9	258,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	130,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.62	0.65	0.62	0.65	40,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	4,530,000
Music Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	50,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	10,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	20,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	10,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	100,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.3	0.34	0.3	0.34	270,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	20,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	100,000
Pryce Corp.	0.08	0.08	0.075	0.075	14,100,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.53	0.54	0.53	0.54	4,210,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	20,000
Manila Jockey Club	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	16,500
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	34	34	33	33.5	376,100
DMCI Holdings Incf.- Pref.	770	775	770	775	1,610
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	4,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	785	795	785	795	2,100
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0006	0.0006	0.0004	0.0004	409,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8	8	8	8	5,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.9	7	6.8	6.9	3,928,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	3,450,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.48	0.49	0.48	0.49	2,840,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	1,410,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.32	2.36	2.32	2.34	1,561,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78	10,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.5	8,716,000
MINING					
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.042	0.042	0.041	0.042	12,800,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines B	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	1,000,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. A	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	1,100,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	600,000
Omico Corp.	0.0044	0.0046	0.0044	0.0046	10,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	450,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	800,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	3,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	3,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	4,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	30,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,663,320	94,792,095.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	503,020,010	212,326,260.00
PRO	21,915,000	89,838,520.00
Mining	26,750,000	1,296,200.00
OIL	10,030,000	47,000.00
GRAND TOTALS:	563,378,330	398,300,075.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	579.71	UP 0.33
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,905.59	DOWN 11.50
PRO	612.97	UP 3.93
Mining	1,326.05	UP 12.60
OIL	1.56	DOWN 0.03
All Shares Index	746.58	UP 1.32
Composite	1,403.62	DOWN 3.51

NO. OF ADVANCES: 32; NO. OF DECLINES: 20;
NO. OF UNCHANGED: 35; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 87;
NO. OF TRADES: 1,552

CURRENCIES

March 27, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.140121	1.000000	51.1480
Japan	Yen	0.008573	0.007519	0.3846
United Kingdom	Pound	1.627066	1.427100	72.9933
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.146190	0.128223	6.5584
Switzerland	Franc	0.683730	0.599700	30.6735
Canada	Dollar	0.716561	0.628496	32.1463
Singapore	Dollar	0.616449	0.540687	27.6551
Australia	Dollar	0.601329	0.527426	26.9768
Bahrain	Dinar	3.024354	2.652661	135.6783
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.304033	0.266667	13.6395
Brunei	Dollar	0.618454	0.542446	27.7450
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000120	0.000105	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.026324	0.023089	1.1810
UAE	Dirham	0.310423	0.272272	13.9262
Korea	Won	0.000864	0.000758	0.0388
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.877100	44.8619
Brazil	Real	0.486815	0.426985	21.8394
Denmark	Kroner	0.134511	0.117980	6.0344
India	Rupee	0.023420	0.020542	1.0507
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.300072	0.263193	13.4618
Mexico	New Peso	0.126295	0.110773	5.6658
New Zealand	Dollar	0.497196	0.436091	22.3052
Norway	Kroner	0.129632	0.1137	5.8155
Pakistan	Rupee	0.019033	0.016694	0.8539
South Africa	Rand	0.099287	0.087085	4.4542
Sweden	Kroner	0.110765	0.097152	4.9691
Syria	Pound	0.022138	0.019417	0.9931
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.032630	0.02862	1.4639
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001295	0.001136	0.0581

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EVERCREST "A"	CALL NOW	-------
LUISITA G&CC "A"	400,000	-------
MAKATI SPORTS "A"	-------	250,000
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MANILA POLO CLUB	2,700,000	-------
MIMOSA GC (INDIV)	250,000	-------
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	670,000	-------
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "B"	800,000	350,000
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TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	-------	6,800,000
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CANLUBANG GC	55,000	TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	35,000
CC AT TAGAYTAY	20,000	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	30,000
MAKATI SPORTS "A"	10,000	THE COUNTRY CLUB	CALL NOW
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Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	1,650,000	Please Call
Baguio Country Club	700,000	750,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	70,000	90,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	100,000
Camp John Hay	250,000	280,000
Canlubang	600,000	Please Call
Canyonwoods	Please Call	330,000
Capitol Hills	125,000	135,000
Celebrity Sports Club	165,000	190,000
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	Please Call	Please Call
Evercrest "A"	-	100,000
Forest Hills "A"	200,000	230,000
Forest Hills "B"	250,000	280,000
Forest Hills "C"	-	270,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	250,000	280,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	270,000	375,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	15,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	10,000,000	12,000,000
Manila Polo	2,600,000	Please Call
Manila Southwoods "A"	600,000	650,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	680,000	750,000
Metropolitan Club "B"	-	140,000
Montemar (Individual)	-	30,000
Montemar (Corp)	50,000	
Mt. Malarayat	-	350,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"	220,000	250,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	230,000	300,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	310,000	350,000
Philippine Columbian	-	85,000
Pueblo de Oro "A"/"B"/"C"	-	Please Call
Puerto Azul	-	125,000
Quezon City Sports Club	200,000	230,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"	-	Please Call
Rockwell	Please Call	550,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	150,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,625,000	1,900,000
Sta. Elena "B"	2,000,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	330,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	190,000
Tagaytay Country Club	420,000	-
Tagaytay Highlands	850,000	Please Call
Tagaytay Midlands	780,000	850,000
The Country Club	Please Call	Please Call
Valle Verde (Individual)	150,000	180,000
Valley Golf	230,000	-
Wack-Wack Golf Club	7,000,000	7,200,000

PLAYING RIGHTS (Available Lessors)

Alabang "A"	25,000	Mimosa Golf	25,000
Calatagan "A"	10,000	Orchard "A"	30,000
Canlubang	60,000	Riviera "A"	15,000
Eagleridge	15,000	Sta. Elena	60,000
Eastridge "A"	20,000	Tagaytay CC	20,000
Forest Hills	30,000	Tagaytay Golf	45,000
Manila Southwoods	20,000	Tagaytay Mid.	35,000
Makati Sports "A"	25,000	Valley Golf	20,000
Manila Golf	300,000	Wack-Wack	90,000

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	ASKED PRICE	BID PRICE
1. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	-	1,600,000.00
2. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	1,700,000.00	-
3. CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB	750,000.00	-
4. CAMP JOHN HAY	280,000.00	250,000.00
5. CAPITOL HILLS GOLF CLUB	-	125,000.00
6. CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	180,000.00	-
7. COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY	-	400,000.00
8. CLUB FILIPINO	220,000.00	-
9. EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB	200,000.00	-
10. EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB	400,000.00	-
11. EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "B"	-	120,000.00
12. FONTANA "D"	100,000.00	-
13. FONTANA "C"	110,000.00	-
14. FOREST HILLS GOLF CLUB "A"	210,000.00	-
15. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	300,000.00	250,000.00
16. MANILA POLO CLUB	-	2,650,000.00
17. MANILA SOUTHWOODS "B"	700,000.00	-
18. MIMOSA	150,000.00	130,000.00
19. MT. MALARAYAT "B"	400,000.00	-
20. MONTEMAR BEACH CLUB	30,000.00	-
21. ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "C"	550,000.00	-
22. PUERTO AZUL BEACH CLUB "A"	110,000.00	-
23. PUERTO AZUL BEACH CLUB "B"	-	150,000.00
24. PHILIPPINE COLUMBIAN ASSOCIATION	80,000.00	-
25. ROYALE TAGAYTAY	80,000.00	70,000.00
26. ROCKWELL	550,000.00	-
27. RIVIERA GOLF CLUB "A"	200,000.00	-
28. RIVIERA GOLF CLUB "B"	-	250,000.00
29. STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	-	1,700,000.00
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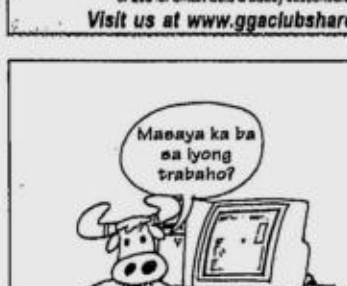

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How to start your own investment club

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

MANY people write to me asking how they should invest P50,000 to P100,000 in the stock market. Most have little experience, and I always advise them to wait until they have a larger sum. Obviously, they cannot invest in a single stock—that is far too risky—but to split it up into lots of P10,000 to P20,000 is just not practical. Most brokers have a minimum commission, so the cost of such transactions would be prohibitive. Nor would the broker welcome such business if he has to send a messenger to Bulacan, Alabang or Valenzuela to deliver invoices and collect checks.

One possibility is to invest in a mutual fund, but there are only two pure equity funds and they have initial charges and annual management fees. Furthermore, you have no control over your investment so there is no sense of participation. What can you do?

In the United States and Britain, there are thousands of investment clubs, and the culture is growing. Unlike a mutual fund, an investment club is not a legal entity. Therefore, it does not have to be registered and is of no concern to the Internal Revenue Service, Securities and Exchange Commission, Philippine Stock Exchange or anyone else. It is simply a collection of small investors who have pooled their resources to form a fund large enough to attract the interest of a broker.

It helps greatly if the members belong to a golf or tennis club, a religious organization, a subdivision, a condominium or any club where members meet regularly. There must be a common theme, and it helps greatly if the people concerned know and trust each other. They should also be in a comparable income bracket.

The next step is to find 20 members with P50,000 each or 10 members with P100,000 each, so that you have a starting capital of not less than P1 million. As my wife is always telling me, size is important. It is not necessary that all members contribute the same amount. One can invest P50,000, another P100,000 and a third P200,000, but if you have P500,000, you can do it alone. The ideal size is P1 million to P2 million because this gives you spread and flexibility.

The next step is to elect three officers, all trustworthy, but preferably not too close, as this reduces the possibility of collusion. The leader, who should know something about the stock market, should be an accountant, a broker, or working in a bank. He will be the one to give the orders to the broker, write checks and receive invoices. A second person will keep the books and should also be a signatory. A secretary should be an alternate signatory in case one person is sick or out of the country.

Meetings are scheduled monthly or fortnightly, depending on how often you want to get away from your spouse. Experience has taught me that the sexes should be segregated so that men can drink and use language not seemly for ladies to hear. Also, it leads to male bonding.

Women should form their own clubs and talk about subjects that interest them. Strangely enough, women make better investors than men because they do the shopping and are more aware of which products are selling and which are not. Also, they are more observant.

Once the meetings are arranged and the officers elected, the serious job of selecting an investment begins. Everyone should contribute their ideas freely until a majority agreement is reached. Then you can give your order, which might be to buy or sell a stock, or even to do nothing.

Beware of megalomaniacs. They try to control the meeting from the outset and make all the decisions. This is not the objective and they should be excluded. One of the benefits of a happy group is to build camaraderie so that you look forward to the next meeting.

Because collective information from a diverse group involved in many industries is invaluable, investment clubs tend to do much better than the average investor. You will have no difficulty in finding a broker, and I will be happy to advise you as I have years of experience.

The long holiday is over, everyone is refreshed, and this is an ideal time to start. The market is still low—it is 2,000 points lower than in January 1997—and over the next two years, we should see a sustained recovery in the economy.

Don't be shy to approach other people. It is great fun, profitable and a learning process. You will enjoy being part of an investment group.

(If you have any questions, write to mrbearbull@hotmail.com.)

Eastern Telecom links up with tech product company

By Abigail L. Ho

EASTERN Telecommunications Philippines Inc. has teamed up with information technology product distributor Hypertech, allowing it to bring down the cost of its bundled Internet products and services by as much as 20 percent.

"Through our partnership with IT pioneer Hypertech, we are launching a promo campaign that will bring down the cost of Eastern Telecoms' Internet digital subscriber lines (DSL) when packaged with their Internet firewall and e-mail server products," Eastern Telecoms vice president for product management, marketing and channels Virgil Pedro said in a statement.

Under the deal, Eastern Telecoms' clients, either with or without existing networks, will be able to save as much as P15,000 to P20,000 for packages that include Internet firewall software LinX Secure Access and e-mail server LinX ecMail.

Pedro added that Eastern Telecoms' clients would also have other options depending on their requirements.

The promo started Feb. 15 and would run up to Aug. 31.

Hypertech president Fisher Chua said the company's LinX products would serve as vehicles for small and medium-size businesses to participate in the global Internet economy.

"We welcome this partnership with Eastern Telecoms as a means to further enhance the competitiveness of both our clients through our bundled services," he said.

LinX Secure Access is bundled with Eastern Telecoms' DSL service. A client-company will need only one Internet protocol address to connect up to 254 workstations and services. This then will maximize the client's investment as well as conserve IP addresses.

LinX ecMail, on the other hand, is an automated internal/external e-mail system that provides customers with a communications system sans the hassle of multiple modems, workstations and Internet service provider accounts.

Apart from this alliance with Hypertech, Eastern Telecoms has also entered into partnerships with various other distributors as part of its efforts to offer more attractive and affordable business solution packages to its clients.

At least six of its partners, specifically on the software side, have agreed to carry Eastern Telecoms' services in the basket of solutions and services they are selling.

PNOC . . .

From page B6

Before that, the two firms wrapped up a contract for drilling nine wells and completing work on five existing wells for LMC.

"Now that we have gained a foothold of the market in geothermal drilling, we are aggressively marketing our other competencies," Apostol said.

PNOC-EDC started doing drilling projects for overseas clients in 1999.

The company is also eyeing contracts with firms in Australia, Iran, Iraq and Bangladesh.

Last month, the country's largest producer of geothermal power agreed with Pertamina of Indonesia to do a joint feasibility study on three potential steam fields in Indonesia.

Expected to be completed in September, the study covers the areas of Tompaso in North Sulawesi, Ulebel in Lampung and Lumut-Balai in South Sumatra.

The three reserves can support power plants with a total capacity of as much as 1,200 megawatts.

Indonesia has a geothermal potential of about 27,000 mws but has only 785 mw of actual power generation capacity.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. earlier said the deal with Pertamina would allow both governments to realize what was discussed when President Macapagal-Arroyo visited Jakarta last year.

Perez, who is concurrent chair of Philippine National Oil Co., noted that the government signed a memorandum of understanding with Indonesia's energy and mineral resources ministry for energy related projects.

"We identified several areas of cooperation and geothermal development is one where we can really help Indonesia," he said. ***Ronnel W. Domingo***

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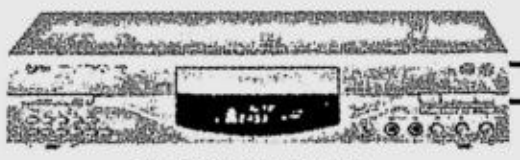

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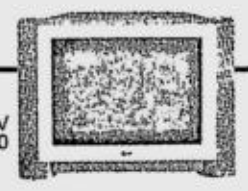

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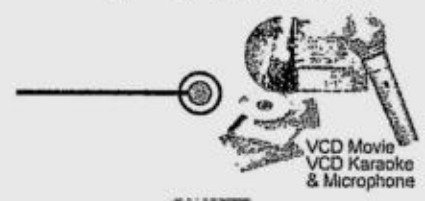

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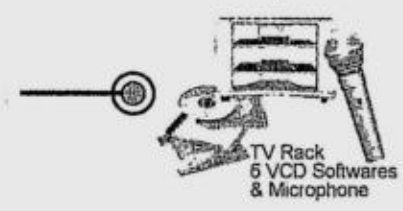

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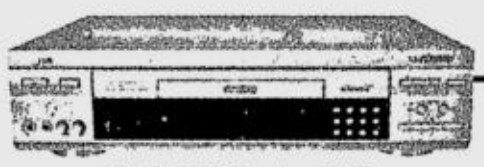

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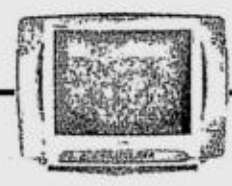

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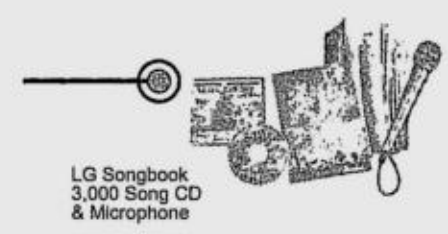

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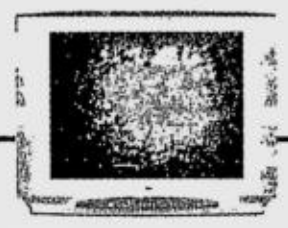

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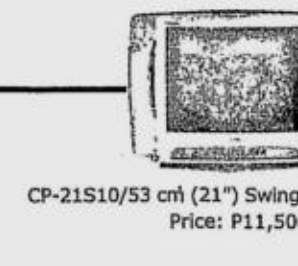

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Life's Good!

New customs team says it sees no need to hire inspector

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE NEW management of the Bureau of Customs has placed in the back burner a proposal to hire a private pre-shipment inspector despite pleas by the business sector to get a third party to tighten up and speed up the inspection process.

Newly installed Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo said his bureau had no immediate plans to get a pre-shipment inspector because he had yet to assess whether this was a necessary cost.

Bernardo said that should the customs bureau decide to tap a pre-shipment inspector, it was most likely that the government would opt to get only partial, not full, services.

Bernardo said the customs bureau could choose to avail of X-ray services or a customs value database to keep costs down in view of the reduction in tariffs and depressed import levels.

The customs bureau is facing a serious budgetary problem as it has yet to settle over 310 million Swiss francs (P9.554 billion) in fees it owes Societe Generale de Surveillance for a contract covering the period October 1998 to March 2000.

The customs bureau is contesting 66 percent, or 206 million Swiss francs, of the fees.

Both the Department of Trade and Industry and Department of Finance earlier backed a petition by the private sector to hire an import inspector to foil technical smuggling, such as undervaluation or misdeclaration of goods, at the country's ports, as well as speed up processing and release of shipments.

The Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry said its members were willing to pay a fee to let an authorized inspector to certify their goods before shipment in order to expedite their release once they arrive in Philippine ports.

New rule on banks' reserves out

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MONETARY Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has allowed banks to compute, on an indefinite basis, their weekly reserves based on the cash in their vaults as of Thursday instead of Friday.

This prudential measure should give the central bank a clearer picture of the banks' level of reserves and ensure that they are complying with the 16-percent reserve requirement on deposits and deposit substitutes.

For banks, the one-day lag will allow them to use funds for short-term investment or for other outlets that may enhance profitability.

Bangko Sentral Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said the central bank had been allowing banks to have a one-day lag in their reserves computation, but the previous order would expire in March.

He said the Monetary Board agreed to the banks' request to extend the one-day lag policy indefinitely.

"The board allowed the banks to lag their reserve computation so they can present an accurate figure of the cash in their vaults rather than giving us an estimate," Reyes said.

For every peso in loanable funds, banks are required to set aside 16 centavos as reserves against a crisis or calamity. The reserves can be in the form of liquid assets like government securities or cash.

Transco in talks to sell sub-transmission lines

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE NATIONAL Transmission Corp. is in talks with three distributors interested in acquiring P13 billion worth of sub-transmission facilities.

In an interview last week, Transco president Asisclo Gonzaga said the state-run firm was negotiating with the Manila Electric Co. and two other utilities in Tarlac and San Fernando in La Union.

Sub-transmission lines link Transco's high-voltage transmission lines and the distribution lines of utilities.

These lines can carry a load of between 69 kilovolts and 230 kilovolts, depending on what load the transmission lines can carry.

A 230-kilovolt line, for instance, is considered a sub-transmission line in Luzon although it is rated as a transmission line in the Visayas.

"Transco will have to sell its sub-transmission assets all over the country," Gonzaga said. "Naturally, only the utilities whose franchise areas include the site of the assets will buy these."

He declined to give an amount involved in the talks with the three utilities.

"Transco will have to retain ownership of the other sub-transmission assets if power distributors are not interested in them," Gonzaga said.

Transco will let go of its sub-transmission assets if and when the utilities already have the money to pay for them, he said.

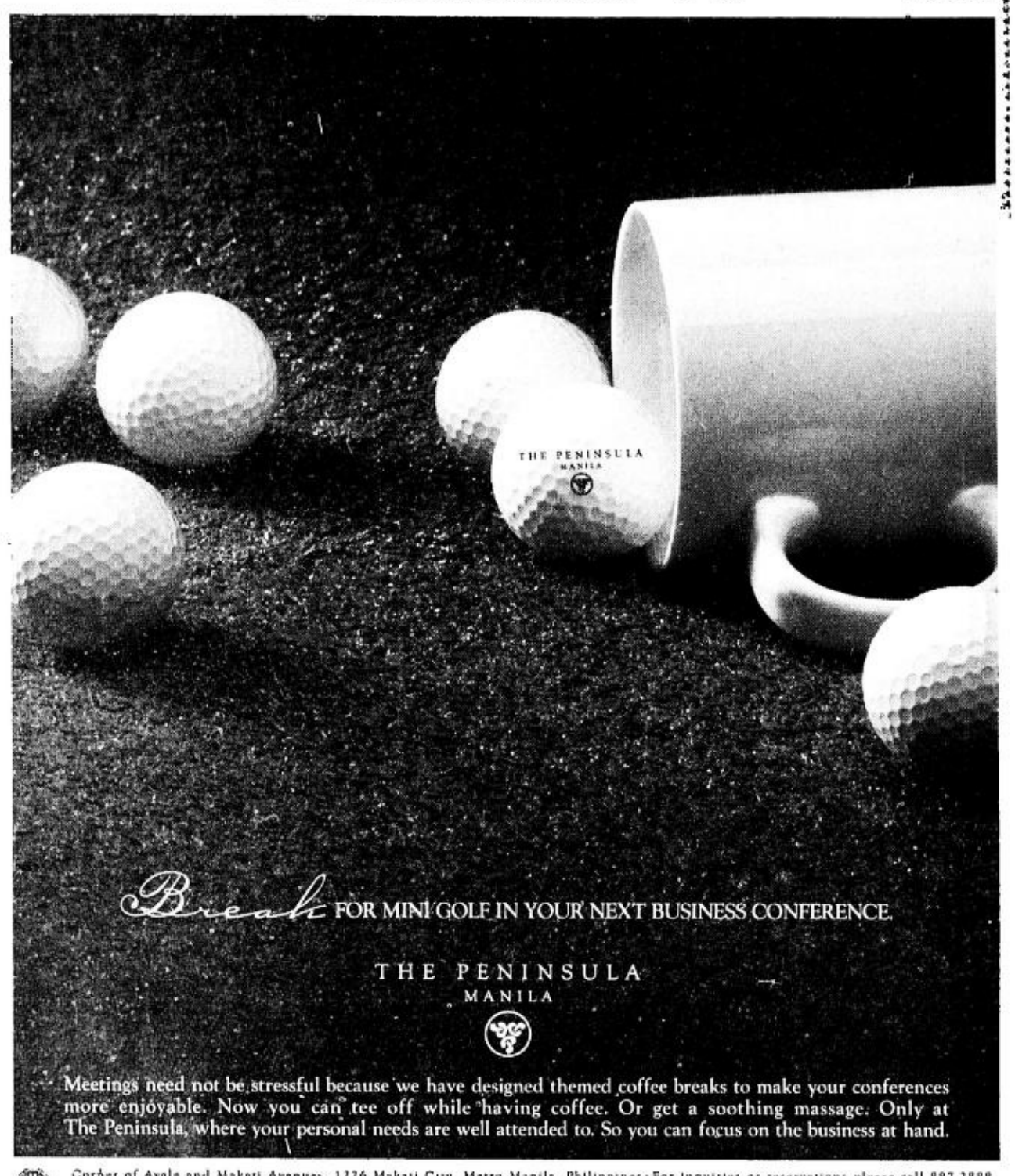
In another matter, Gonzaga said Transco was expected to complete the extension work on the 69-kilovolt Nabas-Caticlan line in Aklan by October.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. earlier asked Transco to hasten the project to stabilize power supply in Aklan.

Perez warned resort owners in Boracay that power service might only improve after the project was completed.

The National Power Corp. earlier cut off power supply to the Aklan Electric Cooperative after the utility failed to settle P104 million in unpaid bills.

Perez said Aklan had been suffering from frequent and long power interruptions due to the technical and operation problems of Akelco.



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Equitable PCI BANK

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of **EQUITABLE PCI BANK, INC.**, will be held on **April 16, 2002 at 3:00 p.m.** at the Francisco Santiago Hall, Mezzanine Floor, Equitable PCI Bank Tower I, Makati Avenue cor. H.V. dela Costa Street, Makati City, Metro Manila, to consider and approve the matters set forth in the following Agenda:

AGENDA:

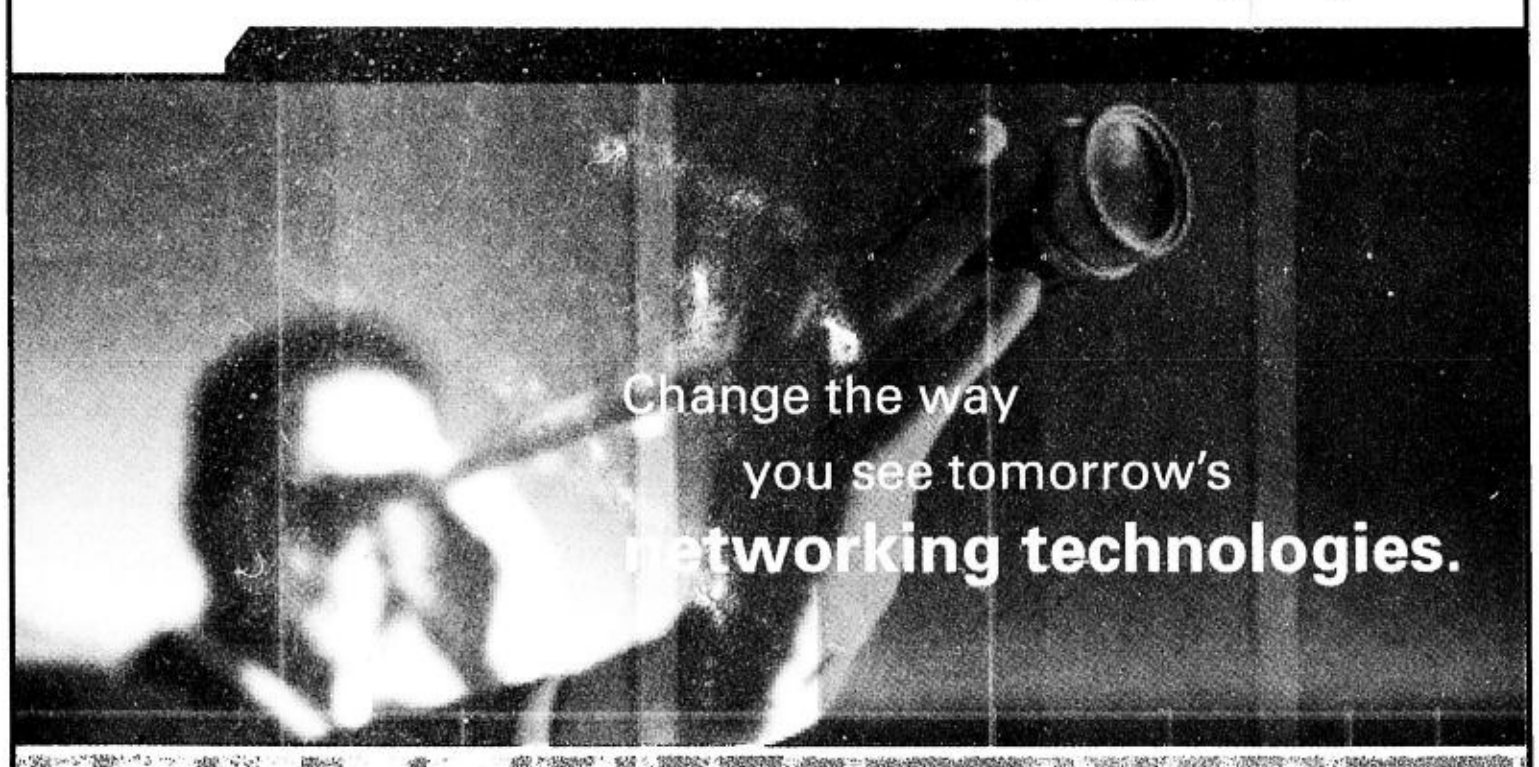
I. Call to Order
II. Certification of Notice and Quorum
III. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Stockholders' Meeting held on April 17, 2001
IV. Presentation of Annual Report
V. Approval and Ratification of Acts and Proceedings of the Board of Directors, the duly Constituted Committees and Corporate Officers
VI. Election of the Board of Directors
VII. Appointment of External Auditor
VIII. Other Business
IX. Adjournment

The record date for the determination of the stockholders entitled to notice of, and to vote at, said meeting is fixed at the close of business hours on March 1, 2002.

Please bring any form of identification in order to facilitate registration.

(sgd.) ATTY. NILO T. DIVINA
Corporate Secretary

SHOWCASE 2002



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BIMP-Eaga sets new directions

DOMINGUEZ

THE EAST Asean Growth Area (BIMP-Eaga) was formally inaugurated on March 25, 1994, at a meeting of senior officials and ministers of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines, as a way of bolstering the sub-region's economies.

Special Envoy Paul G. Dominguez provides Mindanao One with insights on the ongoing revitalization of the BIMP-Eaga.

Question: There is renewed interest by participating Asean states in getting the Eaga initiative going again. What are the major differences between the way Asean viewed Eaga then and how it looks at Eaga now?

Dominguez: In general, sub-regional growth areas are getting more attention from the Asean leaders. In the last Asean Leaders Summit, the leaders reaffirmed the importance of developing these growth areas to more rapidly integrate the Asean economies, an important initiative of Asean.

Bridging the development gap is critical to achieving the goals of the regional economic integration initiative. BIMP-Eaga, in particular, provides a unique opportunity for the participating countries to bridge the development gaps within their respective national boundaries.

Q & A

It should be realized that except for Brunei Darussalam, the focus areas of BIMP-Eaga are the less developed territories of the participating countries. Expanding economic cooperation in BIMP-Eaga is a key strategy of the participating countries to bring much delayed social and economic development to these less developed regions.

For these reasons, Asean is getting more involved and is ensuring that the economic cooperation in BIMP-Eaga is revived and strengthened.

Q: President Macapagal-Arroyo has taken the lead in getting the Eaga initiative revived. How did the other Asean states respond to this?

PGD: Prior to the Asean Summit, Ms Macapagal met and discussed with the leaders of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Malaysia the need to revitalize Eaga. The leaders agreed with Ms Macapagal on the importance of strengthening Eaga.

The other Asean countries have also been supportive and this is clearly seen in the statement issued by the leaders during the Asean Summit last November in Brunei Darussalam, which called for greater sub-regional cooperation in BIMP-Eaga and other sub-regions.

Q: The Eaga initiative was launched during Asia's economic boom, and we saw then a dramatic rise in private-sector investment among its member-territories. The investment climate today, however, appears less promising.

What actions are the concerned agencies involved in Eaga—whether government or private sector—taking to draw investment into the region?

PGD: The focus now is on strengthening the capacity of the SMEs to undertake investments. ADB recently completed a study on the SME environment in the Philippines and Indonesian sub-regions in the Eaga.

The ADB is currently expanding that study to cover Brunei Darussalam and Eastern Malaysia to establish an Eaga-wide strategy for the development of SMEs. SMEs comprise the majority of the Eaga private sector, and studies have shown that the sector was the least affected by the financial crisis nor was it affected by political changes. SMEs are better equipped to weather economic and political reverses.

The objective is to establish a network of strong SMEs within the sub-region that will have the capability to undertake cooperative and collaborative business arrangements.

On the part of the private sector, there is continuing networking among BIMP-Eaga private sector, and joint venture opportunities are continuously being explored, particularly in the agriculture and tourism sectors.

On the part of the government, there is a greater focus on providing strategic infrastructure that will serve the needs of the SMEs rather large investments. This means small ports infrastructure, post-harvest facilities, improving distribution of products; infrastructure that will improve access to information and IT.

Q: Would you tell us something about the ongoing cooperation on security, particularly in the wake of Sept. 11?

PGD: The cooperation on security matters across BIMP-Eaga countries has significantly intensified after Sept. 11. A trilateral agreement to combat terrorism among the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia has been drafted and will soon be signed, and I understand several other Asean countries have expressed interest to participate.

Improving the security situation within the BIMP-Eaga is an important component of the strategy to achieve sustainable development in the sub-region.

Q: What are the implications of the formal entry of China into the WTO for the various BIMP-Eaga economies?

PGD: The formal entry of China into WTO means that it agrees to engage in the rules of free trade. We can thus expect China to allow access to its consumer market. China's estimated population of 1.3 billion is a big potential market for BIMP-Eaga countries. One very promising idea is for BIMP-Eaga to supply food for the China market.

Q: Asean trade with foreign markets has grown more than intra-Asean trade. Do you think this is an inevitable trend?

PGD: It is hardly surprising that Asean trade with foreign markets seems more robust than intra-Asean trade since most Asean member-countries are export-led economies. However, the recession experienced by traditional trading partners like the United States and Japan has had a detrimental impact on the Asean economies.

There is now recognition among Asean member-countries to focus on building stronger economic linkages with its neighbors in the region in order to lessen dependence on their traditional trading partners.

(Paul G. Dominguez is special envoy to Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Malaysia.)

GOINGS-ON

Social security meet

MACTAN, Cebu—The Philippines and its Asean neighbors discussed social security issues during the 9th Asean Social Security Association board meeting held here recently.

About 40 representatives and officials from the seven Asean member-countries attended the meeting.

Among the major issues tackled during the conference was the viability of a nationally sponsored social security schemes which are seen as a "social insurance."

In a presentation, Government Service Insurance System president Winston Garcia cited various reforms being undertaken by the institution to ensure that it would be able to pay out members' benefits when they fall due.

PAL-DoT project

PHILIPPINE Airlines has joined hands with the Department of Tourism (DoT) to expand tourist inflows to the country via the innovative "Tourism Volunteer 12" program.

PAL has donated air tickets to various destinations to serve as raffle prizes in the quarterly draws of the program.

Recently, seven tourism volunteers were awarded PAL tickets during the first raffle draw presided over by Tourism Secretary Richard J. Gordon.

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Andersen's Berardino: Fall guy or failure?

NEW YORK—Was Joseph Berardino just in the wrong place at the wrong time, or the man who led Andersen to the brink of collapse?

As the chief executive of Andersen resigned late on Tuesday—with his firm facing disintegration under the pressure of criminal charges over its audit of Enron Corp.—industry watchers weighed where the blame should fall.

"He was not captain of the ship when much of this happened," Art Bowman, editor of industry publication Bowman' Accounting Report, told Reuters. "But he was still involved in some of the processes that got them where they are."

The 52-year-old accountant, who took over as CEO only 14 months ago, did not have enough time to make necessary changes at the firm, some experts said.

Yet the 30-year Andersen veteran led the firm's US audit practice for two years before becoming CEO, as the firm paid out hundreds of millions of dollars to settle lawsuits over botched audits of trash hauler Waste Management Inc. and appliance maker Sunbeam Corp..

He also championed the very cause that many are now blaming for Andersen's role in Enron's collapse—allowing auditors to reap fat fees for consulting work for audit clients.

In 2000, Berardino fiercely led Andersen's fight, alongside its "Big 5" rivals, against the Securities and Exchange Commission's plans to restrict auditors' consulting work.

Berardino, arguing that the SEC's proposed rules would actually compromise audit quality, eventually won concessions from the SEC. ***Reuters***

Can World Cup kick-start Japan's depressed economy?

TOKYO—In a country where unemployment is near record levels after a decade-long economic slump, people tend to think twice before opening up their wallets and splurging.

But that could change, for a while at least, when Japan co-hosts the soccer World Cup with South Korea in two months.

"The World Cup is just about the only bright light we see ahead that will spur consumption in Japan," says Shuji Shirota, an economist at securities house Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein.

Akiyoshi Takumori, economist at Sakura Investment Management, notes the French economy grew 3.3 percent in 1998—its highest rate in the 1990s—when it hosted the last World Cup.

Brokers have put sports goods makers, media, brewers, consumer electronics manufacturers, security companies and even cosmetics makers on their "to buy" lists.

HSBC Securities strategist Garry Evans studied the correlation between the World Cup and each host country's stock market, and found that most bourses posted strong gains in the run-up to the tournament.

"One event that might make Japan a happier place is the Football (or soccer for our American clients) World Cup, which will be held in Japan and Korea from 31st May to 30th June," Evans said in a report to clients issued in December.

"In France in 1998, for example, the CAC-40 (stock index) rose 39 percent in the first half of the year, and outperformed global equity markets by 22 percent."

And apart from the more obvious stock buys such as television manufacturers and beer firms, Evans also recommends that investors put money into sectors such as makeup companies.

"Football souvenirs will obviously sell well, but so may cosmetics and perfume as men with a guilty conscience for having left wives and girlfriends at home buy them as gifts," he said. ***Reuters***

Techs still crazy after all these years

NEW YORK—Two years after the New Economy punched out the lights for a lot of people and sent trillions of dollars up in smoke, investors are still convinced technology and telecommunications stocks are the great wealth-spinners they once were.

The Nasdaq composite index, which comprises 70 percent technology and telecom stocks, has roared back by 40 percent from the three-year low of 1,460 set after the Sept. 11 attacks.

Just two years ago, in March 2000, the Nasdaq hit a record high of 5,048. The head-spinning drop of nearly 70 percent was the biggest hammering suffered by any US stock index since the 90-percent market crash during the Great Depression.

Yet investors are still betting the ranch on the New Economy stocks and have again priced tech and telecom stocks out of this world, even though many companies are operating in a recession-like environment for the first time in their short history.

Fair to say, investors continue to ignore the message that these stocks can be dangerous for people who invest for their retirement years.

Bring on the videotape

Intel's market capitalization has exploded to $221 billion, regardless of the fact that worldwide sales of semiconductors amount to only $139 billion. While Intel's sales inched up just one percent from 1998 to 2000, its stock now trades at 8.3 times revenues.

Another example of irrational pricing is Applied Materials, which has a market cap of $41 billion even as global sales of semiconductor-making equipment amount to only $28 billion.

There's more. While Microsoft's revenues climbed 36 percent, or at a rate of 13 percent annually over the last 2 1/2 years, the earnings of the giant software maker have shrunk. But Microsoft's stock still trades at a whopping 13 times revenues and 57 times earnings.

The incredible valuations show that investors still believe technology companies will continue to have spectacular growth ahead of them, says Alan Newman, editor of CrossCurrents, a financial letter.

"Clearly, the computer industry has completed its growth phase," says Newman. "Microsoft's business is likely now beyond its best period of growth, yet (its stock) trades like it had the potential for growth it had a decade ago."

Light at end of tunnel

While 30 percent fewer companies have issued earnings warnings in the current first quarter compared with a year ago, tech/telecom companies continue to sing the blues. For many, the light they saw at the end of the tunnel earlier this year turned out to be a speeding locomotive.

What's happening is the New Economy sector is being left behind as the rest of the economy appears to be bouncing back from one of the shortest recessions in history.

"What has fooled some folks is the belief that the recovery is supposed to be massive and simultaneous for all companies," says Bill Valentine, president of Valentine Ventures LLC. "It doesn't happen that way and it doesn't have to."

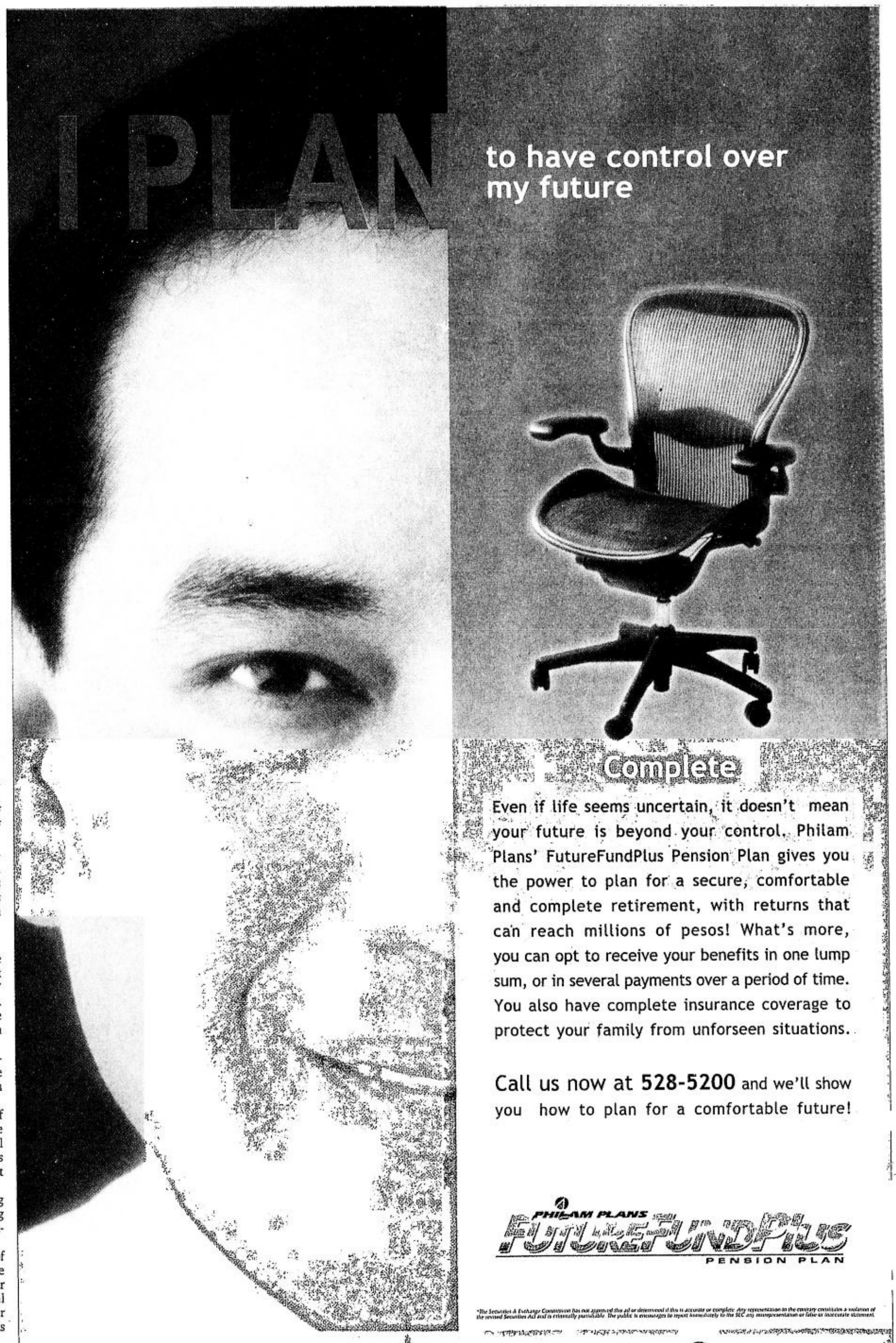
Wall Street houses are slowly lowering their forecasts for some of the trend-setting names, which could eventually bring a knock-on effect to the rest of the sector.

J.P. Morgan recently warned the results of the world's largest chipmaker, Intel, won't be as strong as expected in the second quarter and Salomon Smith Barney said personal computer shipments in the second quarter will drop from a year earlier due to cutbacks in corporate spending on computers.

Fatal attraction

The challenge for investors is to control their bullishness because the technology and telecom businesses cannot be expected to deliver 1990s type of growth.

Overbuilding and overexpansion were the "in" things during the suffocating expansion in fiber optics. Millions of miles of cable were laid, but less than 3 percent are now operating. The rest may never be used. The reason: the future is in hand-held, wireless technology. ***Reuters***



People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

PSBank's low-interest guarantee on home loan

PSBank, a subsidiary of Metrobank, recently introduced a unique home loan product called PSB Home Rate Protect. An addition to the bank's line-up of home loan products, PSB Home Rate Protect gives clients a fixed 12-percent interest rate for the first year of their loan and a guaranteed maximum interest of 15 percent for the next four years. Loanable amounts start from P500,000 up to a maximum of P25 million and may be used for a house and lot, lot, townhouse, or condominium.

PSB Home Rate Protect helps borrowers project their cash flow for the first five years of the loan, giving them peace of mind of not being burdened with unpredictable rates. IT is committed to protect borrowers from fluctuating interest rates. That means if at any time starting on the 2nd year of the loan, the prevailing market rate goes beyond 15 percent, PSBank guarantees a maximum rate of only 15 percent for those who borrowed under Home Rate Protect. If market rates go lower, borrowers get the added advantage of enjoying lower interest rates, too. An optional five-year fixing of interest rate at 13.5 percent is also available.

PSB Home Rate Protect eliminates the uncertainty of high interest rates, which have become unpredictable, given the present volatility in the market, and provides one of the lowest rates for home loans. This is ideal for those who have existing housing loans and those who are still deliberating on buying a home.

As a special offering, clients with existing loans who wish to transfer their loan to PSBank's Home Rate Protect will enjoy a waiver of fees on application and processing. Promo period is from January 25 to March 31.

Currently, PSBank has a variety of home loan programs. There is the regular PSB Home Loan; there is also the PSB Home Free where principal payments are returned after loan maturity.

Interested parties may visit any PSBank branch or call 843-2038, 843-1672, 885-8217.

AFCI SUPPORTS HYBRID RICE PROGRAM
A memorandum of agreement in support of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Hybrid Rice Program was signed recently between Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) and AFC Fertilizer and Chemicals Inc (AFCI). Shown are (from left) Takashi Ikeda, director-vice president of AFCI, Antonio M. Kosca, Jr., AFCI president; Secretary of the Office of the Million Jobs Luis P. Lorenzo, Jr., and Dr. Leocadio S. Sebastian, director of PhilRice. Also shown is Raymund P. Ilustre, SVP of AFCI.

MSV EXTENDS PROMO
DTI director Arnaldo del Rosario (second from left) is seen with Heidi Yumul, Dottie Pineda and Ellen Lambinicio of Bookware Publishing Corp. during the recent monthly draw of 'Nokia 3310 raffle promo' held at the company's offices in Pasig City. For the readers of My Special Valentine (MSV) pocketbooks, the lucky winner is Araceli de los Reyes of Meycauayan, Bulacan. The company also announces that the promo has been extended to February next year. For details, call 631-8893 to 94.

ABACUS PROMOTES TRAVEL
Abacus International, Asia-Pacific's largest global distribution and computerized reservations system, through its ongoing TravelSmart-Asia promo, promotes travel and tourism to visit the Philippines and other countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Clients who book their airline tickets through travel agents using the Abacus Computerized Reservations System (CRS) from now until April 14 have the chance to win airline tickets and hotel accommodations through raffle draws. Major key players at the recent launch of TravelSmart-Asia are (from left) Demetrio C. Silverio, president and general manager of Abacus Distribution Systems Phils. Inc.; Avelino L. Zapanta, president and COO of Philippine Airlines; Marilu Q. Ngo, president of the Philippine Iata Agents Travel Association Inc., and Donald A.R. Birch, president and CEO of Abacus International Pte. Ltd.

WWW.WEDDINGEXPOPHIL.COM
The website of the Philippines' most comprehensive wedding fair was launched in simple ceremonies recently. Shown is Vicky Veloso-Barrera, editor-in-chief of WedExpo's commemorative glossy magazine browsing the site together with John Rana of WeddingsAtWork, event consultant, and Sharon Parreno-Fabian of Themes & Motifs, event organizer. Looking on are Bennette Rana of W@W and Dodjie R. Fabian, senior partner of Wedding Expo Philippines. WedExpo is on April 6 and 7 at the NBC Tent, The Fort, Makati City.

Minnesota Fats' Service Center opens

Sports Resources Inc., the exclusive distributor of Minnesota Fats Cue Sticks, the high-end billiards cue sticks named after the world's best billiards player Rudolph Wanderone (also known as "The Hustler"), recently opened its after-sales service center which will repair and fix Minnesota Fats cue sticks for a minimal fee.

Minnesota Fats cue sticks are made of A-1 type of original Canadian maple wood and are durable, with perfectly aligned joints made of stainless steel brass. Minnesota Fats cue sticks sport a variety of graphic designs in smooth and gradually tapered shafts.

But even the best cue sticks can be less than perfect after a lot of use or misuse. For this purpose, SRI has put up the after-sales service center to ensure a perfect billiards game for billiards aficionados.

For March, the SRI Service Center will repair and fix Minnesota Fats cue sticks (e.g. broken ferrules, missing tips, etc.) free of charge. This special promo is SRI's way of thanking its valued patrons of Minnesota Fats Cue Sticks for the continued support and trust they have shown this top-of-the-line-brand.

Minnesota Fats Cue Sticks are available at al Toby's and Chris Sports outlets, Marvin's Sports City, CSI-Dagupan, Rowell's Billiards, Unique Sports World, Phil-Indian, Tiongsan, Harrison Sports Basic, Southwood Mindanao, Ever Industries, Celebrity Sports and Altamera.

Cooking the way mom cooks

Women nowadays have become more sophisticated, more independent and are going up the corporate ladder. But while women are conquering new fields, they have started to become less skilled in the place where they have dominated traditionally – the kitchen.

In a rush, today's women have become increasingly dependent on packaged foods in order to cope with their active lifestyles. Soups are prepared by mixing hot water with a sachet of instant mix. Sauces and gravies for viands are prepared the same way. Cakes and pastries are bought rather than baked.

The lack of practice in the kitchen and the dependence on all things "instant" leaves little room to wonder why the food they prepare are no match for mom's "home-cooked" meals. Almost half of today's women, according to a study, say they can't cook as well as their mothers.

While mom's cooking is always remembered with fondness, it sometimes can lead to frustration especially when mom's cooking becomes the benchmark for your own. It can get more frustrating once you remember mom dishing out trays upon trays of culinary delights when you can barely master a single dish.

Cream All-Purpose Flour and Cream Cornstarch are two must-have in mom's kitchen shelf that wants to bridge the cooking gap between generation and rescue today's modern but cooking-challenged woman.

Through the Cream Cooking website (http://www.creamcooking.com), today's modern woman can now discover why it was so easy for mom to create those heavenly meals. Browse through the easy-to-follow recipes that make use of Cream All-Purpose Flour and Cream Cornstarch and learn how to concoct thick and creamy soups, mix sauces and gravies or bake mouthwatering cakes and pastries. The recipes are so easy, it's perfect for women who don't know but want to learn how to cook.

The site also teaches you mom's secrets for keeping the house spick-and-span. Household tips like grease spot removal, stain removal, glass cleaning, carpet cleaning and tidying up dirty stuffed toys and fabric dolls through the use of cornstarch are enumerated in the website

And if all these "unfolded secrets" are not enough, the website also shows how cornstarch can aid skin care. Tips on sunburn relief, skin irritation, chafing, facial care and baby care, all through the use of cornstarch, are disclosed for everyone to browse.

Cream All-Purpose Flour and Cream Cornstarch have helped generations of mothers with these recipes, secrets and tips. It's time for women of today to discover all these by simply clicking the mouse and training your Internet browsers to http://www.creamcooking.com.

Seminars on fashion design set for April, May

Canadian-born graphic and fashion design consultant Claudine Cloutier is scheduled to conduct a two-month series of courses on fashion and graphic design starting April 2, aimed at introducing new aspects of design to interested students and professionals.

According to Cloutier, the seminar series, to be held at 2/F Trafalgar Plaza, H.V. de la Costa, Salcedo Village, Makati can open opportunities for individuals who want to start a new hobby or gain better understanding of the design field.

Younger students may wish to pursue design as a professional career that could lead them to post-secondary studies here or abroad or a full-time business as an entrepreneur, she said.

Cloutier has a rich international experience in the fields of fashion and graphic design, which she acquired from overseas stints in various countries such as France, Malaysia, and now, the Philippines.

Among the topics covered in the fashion seminar are : fashion accessories 1 (April 2 – 3), fashion accessories 2 (April 4 – 5), fashion portfolio preparation (April 8 – 19), experimental fashion drawings (April 22 – May 3), computers for fashion (May 6 – 17).

The graphic courses will cover branding and corporate identity (April 8 – 19, April 22 – May 3), and advanced graphic layouts and portfolio presentation (May 6 – 17).

All courses offered are open to participants of all ages. Certificates of attendance will be given upon completion of courses.

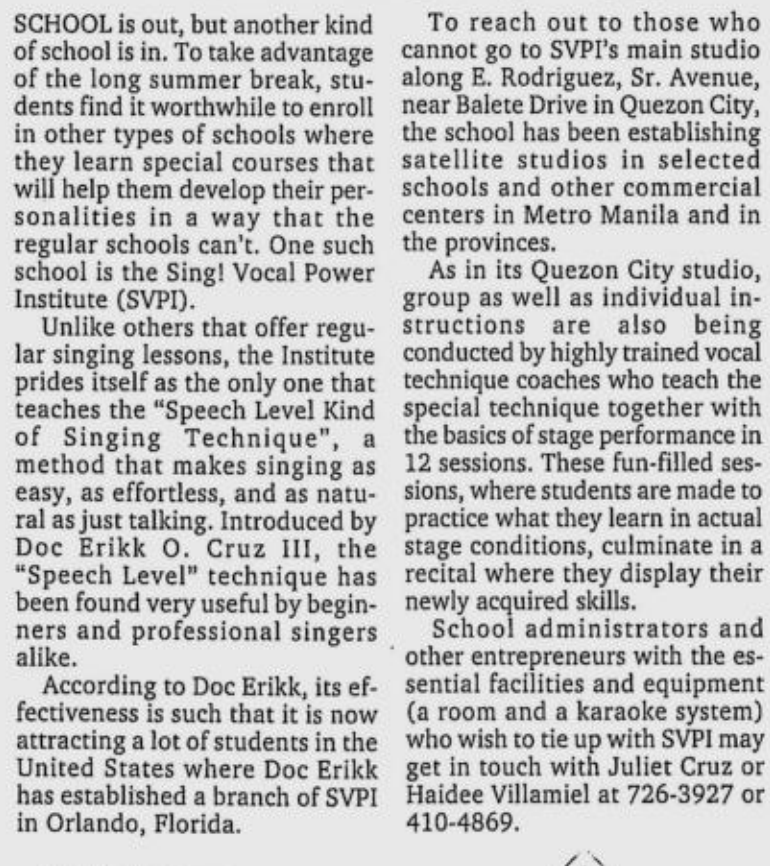
For more information, please contact International Education Specials (Inter-Ed), at 819-1001, 819-1002; fax 810-2825 or email at claudine@inter-ed.com.

Product FILES

WARREN'S NEW LINE

WARREN, a strong and reliable brand trusted for generations, is catching up on trend when it comes to men's underwear as it offers yuppies and teeners high-quality and more stylish garments comparable to imported brands at affordable prices. Warren's latest line includes more stylish briefs and bikinis, especially in color, with wide brands as dictated by the latest trend wherein underwear bands are shown peeking over the jeans; boxers, the future underwear trend; and muscle shirts.

Choose among the new Warren Bare Essentials collections including the following: Comfort Ribs Series; Retro Classic; Athletic Fit Sport; High Fashion Bikini/Brief; Eclipse Series; Basic Brief; Shirts; and Basic Shirts.



NPC SWITCHES CAMOTES ISLAND ON
National Power Corp. OIC-president and CEO Roland S. Quilala delivers a keynote speech during the blessing and switch-on ceremony of NPC's Camotes Diesel Power Plant Expansion project in Camotes Island in Cebu recently. The expansion project will provide additional capacity to meet the growing energy needs of the three towns in the island. Joining Quilala during the event were Rep. Hoseph Ace Durano of the 5th District of Cebu and Poro Mayor Edgar Rama.

Sing! for students on summer break

SCHOOL is out, but another kind of school is in. To take advantage of the long summer break, students find it worthwhile to enroll in other types of schools where they learn special courses that will help them develop their personalities in a way that the regular schools can't. One such school is the Sing! Vocal Power Institute (SVPI).

Unlike others that offer regular singing lessons, the Institute prides itself as the only one that teaches the "Speech Level Kind of Singing Technique", a method that makes singing as easy, as effortless, and as natural as just talking. Introduced by Doc Erikk O. Cruz III, the "Speech Level" technique has been found very useful by beginners and professional singers alike.

According to Doc Erikk, its effectiveness is such that it is now attracting a lot of students in the United States where Doc Erikk has established a branch of SVPI in Orlando, Florida.

To reach out to those who cannot go to SVPI's main studio along E. Rodriguez, Sr. Avenue, near Balete Drive in Quezon City, the school has been establishing satellite studios in selected schools and other commercial centers in Metro Manila and in the provinces.

As in its Quezon City studio, group as well as individual instructions are also being conducted by highly trained vocal technique coaches who teach the special technique together with the basics of stage performance in 12 sessions. These fun-filled sessions, where students are made to practice what they learn in actual stage conditions, culminate in a recital where they display their newly acquired skills.

School administrators and other entrepreneurs with the essential facilities and equipment (a room and a karaoke system) who wish to tie up with SVPI may get in touch with Juliet Cruz or Haidee Villamiel at 726-3927 or 410-4869.

BITS Clips

Partido High reunion

MEMBERS of Class '77 of the Partido State University (formerly Partido National High School) will hold their Silver Jubilee reunion on March 31 at the school campus in Goa, Camarines Sur. The celebration will kick off with the registration of attendees followed by Mass at 8 a.m. The event also features fun games for the batch members and their families. A program will be held after lunch with the election of alumni officers. Ballroom dancing caps the affair. Batchmates in Metro Manila may call Marlene Gonzaga-Brillantes at 712-1305 or Nora Salazar-Pacao at 837-5758. In Bicol, call Antonio A. Ante at 054-4531478 and 0916-4710115.

Poetic film workshop

MULTI-AWARDED filmmaker and internationally recognized film scholar and film educator Nick Deocampo will be facilitating this year's Poetic Film Workshop to be held at the Mowelfund Film Institute starting April 10. Deocampo leads the country's top short filmmakers in an intensive five-month film production workshop, which tackles directing and writing, cinematography, assistant directing/production management, editing, sound and production design. Application period is until April 3. For more information, call the Mowelfund Film Institute at 723-4058/727-1915/727-1961.

Camarines Sur High Homecoming

ALL GRADUATES of Class 1977 of the Camarines Sur National High School, Naga City are invited to their reunion on April 6 at the CSNHS campus in Naga City. Call Ma. Francia A. Quimson at (045)473-1324 in Naga City, Marie Alcantara-Deleña at 632-1034 during office hours, or at her Manila residence at 838-2198.

THE SLAUGHTER OF LOCAL INDUSTRIES BEGINS

(Or why the Tariff Commission's recommendation against the cement industry is unfair!)

"THE TARIFF COMMISSION crucified the cement industry and its workers two weeks before Good Friday," declared former Bicol lawmaker Edcel Lagman after the TC released its recommendation last March 15. The industry applied for safeguards against the surge of cement imports pursuant to the Safeguard Measures Act (RA 8800). RA 8800 makes available safeguards to local industries and agricultural producers not only when imports cause *serious injury* but also when there is *threat of serious injury.*

Vested interest groups, who have immensely profited from cement imports, have claimed that the TC recommendation should be upheld. But is the TC recommendation fair?

Let us examine the facts:

A "recent, sudden and sharp" increase in cement imports

The TC admitted that the surge in cement imports was not just any increase but an increase that is "recent, sudden and sharp." Yet it inexplicably concluded that there was no serious injury or threat of serious injury to the industry. The TC disregarded the following data submitted and proved by the industry:

• Imports have captured 21% of the domestic market (that grew rapidly from 1.48% in 1998, to 4% in 1999, to 13.1% in 2000 and 21% as of September 2001);

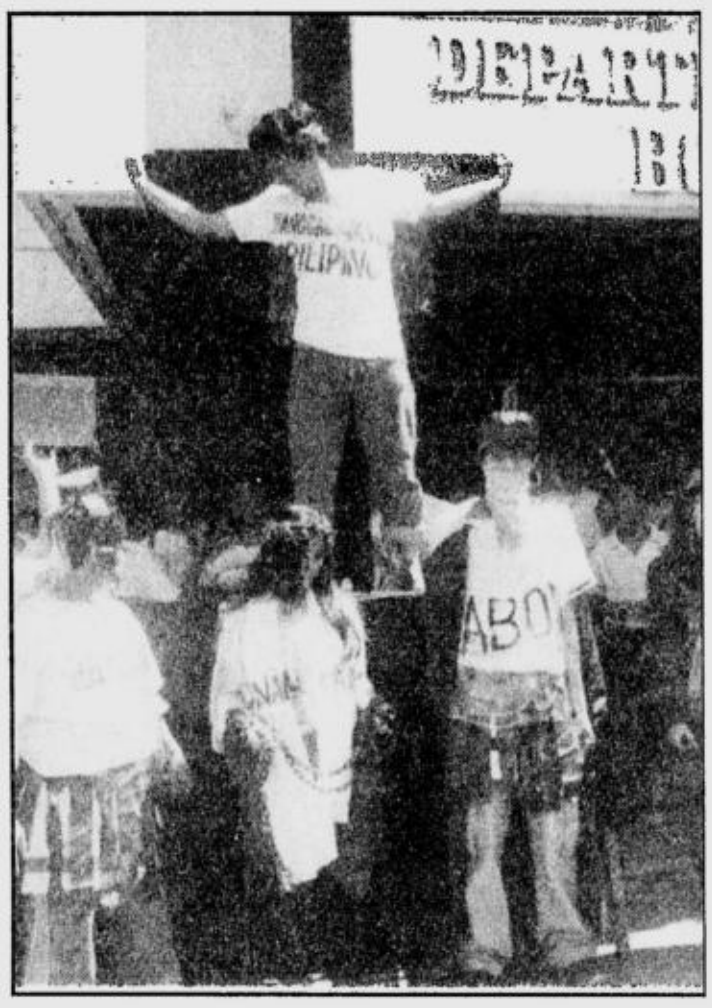
• Sales of local manufacturers declined by 21.40% in the period January-September 2001, as compared to the same period in year 2000. This is equivalent to 14.9 million bags valued at P6.1 billion in sales decline;

• A decline in production of 5% in 2000, equivalent to 14.9 million bags valued at P1.6 billion;

• A decline in capacity utilization equivalent to 3 million metric tons;

• The idling of 7 modern and efficient dry kilns with a capacity of 3.2 million metric tons. This means the idling of investments worth from US$360 million to $540 million;

• A decline in employment by 18% in 2000, and an additional 17.% by year 2001. (Based on its own findings, the TC found a 21.60% decline in employment in 2000.);



• Lost sales of P3.9 billion in 1999, and P6 billion in the first three quarters of 2001;

• Net losses amounting to P7.6 billion in 1999, and P5.3 billion in 2000;

• A negative 21% in return of sales as of 2001; and

• The undercutting by imports of local cement up to P46.51 in 2001.

How did the TC conveniently ignore these figures? It did so in a variety of ways, all with the intent of arriving at a lower percentage of decline or even an increase in the industry indicators. However, in doing so, it has established precedents that endanger the viability of safeguards as a remedy for other industries and agricultural producers in the years to come.

First, the TC unilaterally increased the threshold of serious injury and threat of serious injury.

In the case of the cement industry, the TC imposed conditions that were not provided for by the law and its implementing rules and regulations, World Trade Organization (WTO) cases and precedents, and decisions of international trade commissions in other countries. In its recommendations, the TC in effect set the following standards as prerequisite to the finding of serious injury:

• It is not enough that the market share of imports increased by 21% in just two and a half years. Imports must have total dominance of the market;

• It is not sharp or significant enough for production to decline by 5% (equivalent to 14.9 million bags valued at P1.6 billion);

• The drop in capacity utilization by 3 million metric tons is not significant either;

• Net losses amounting to P7.6 billion in 1999 and P5.3 billion in 2000 are not "sudden, sharp or significant."

It should be noted that neither market dominance nor "sudden, sharp or significant" declines were conditions imposed by law, rules or WTO cases to support a finding of serious injury. The TC imposed these conditions unilaterally, to increase the benchmark for the finding of serious injury.

This is clearly a case where the TC is MORE WTO THAN THE WTO.

Meantime, other countries have acted decisively to defend their industries from injuries caused by imports in cases where their injuries are less than the injuries suffered by the Philippine cement industry.

United States

• US President George W. Bush recently imposed a 30% tariff on imported steel for the next four years after imports to the US of steel products increased by 21.10% and imported steel increased its market share by 21.77%. Bush said the American steel industry is being injured. (In contrast, cement imports into the Philippines increased by 290.98%, and increased its market share by 597.73% as of 2001. But the TC does not see any injury!)

• Because of the increase in steel imports, employment in the US steel industry declined by an average of 4.58%. Immediately, Bush wore the hard hat symbolizing his solidarity with the American steel workers, and imposed the 30% tariff on imported steel. (In the Philippines, the TC simply ignored the fact that employment in the local cement industry dropped by 20.60% as of 2000.)

• The net incomes of the US steel industry decreased by 335.77% because of imports, and Bush imposed the tariffs. (The Philippine cement industry suffered a decrease in net income by 375.41%, yet the TC simply shrugged it off.)

Taiwan

• Philippine cement exports to Taiwan only captured about 4% of the Taiwanese market. But the Taiwanese government declared serious injuries to the Taiwanese cement industry, and is now poised to slap a 65% tariff on Philippine cement for the next 5 years.

European Union

• To shield Europe from the flood of cheap steel imports from countries hit by the imposition by the US of tariffs on steel, the European Union recently imposed tariffs of up to 26% on imported steel entering its markets.

Second, the TC made it impossible to prove the threat of serious injury

The TC admitted to two main factors in determining threat of serious injury exists – excess cement in the cement producing countries in the region, and the decline in market share, sales volume and other industry indicators. But it still ruled that there was no threat of serious injury simply because *"Philcemcor did not present evidence of the existence of letters of credit, supply or sales contracts, the award of a tender, an irrevocable offer or similar contracts to demonstrate the likelihood of substantially increased projections."*

Under RA 8800 and its rules, this factor is not mandatory. Yet the TC made it mandatory. As a result of this precedent, it is virtually impossible for safeguard applicants to prove a threat of serious injury because these documents are in the possession of the importers and foreign manufacturers. Ironically, the TC itself admitted during the public consultations that it is powerless to require the importers to submit such documents.

Third, the TC used erroneous factors in determining the financial health of the industry

The TC insisted on focusing on *operating income* as basis to determine the financial health of the industry, which is contrary to the law and its implementing rules. Section 12 of RA 8800 provides that the TC should take into consideration not the operating income but "changes in the levels of ... profits and losses."

Rule 12.2.b of the implementing rules also specifically requires that what should be taken into consideration is the "inability of a significant number of firms to carry out domestic production at a profit." Consequently, under the law, operating income cannot be the basis for determining the health of an industry being swamped by imports.

Fourth, the TC treated the industry as if it were an ordinary business

It should be stressed that the WTO precedents clearly state that it is the nature of the industry that should be taken into account in analyzing the injury factors. In analyzing the injury factors, the TC failed to consider the nature of the local cement industry as a capital intensive industry where it takes P5 billion to P6.2 billion to establish one plant of medium capacity. These large investments have to be sourced from the banking system and must be paid. The capital intensive nature of the industry means that:

1. any slippage in the market share and sales volume has a direct and serious adverse impact on all the other injury factors because the industry depends on market share and sales volume to distribute its fixed costs over more units produced; and

2. reasonable profits are essential for the viability of the industry since it needs to pay for the cost of the funds borrowed for its establishment.

Even if the cement industry has a positive operating income but has a negative net income does not mean a healthy balance sheet. It simply means it is not earning sufficiently to pay for the costs of the money borrowed for its establishment.

Fifth, the TC ignored two important factors that showed serious injury

The TC also inexplicably failed to take into consideration two factors that are significant to the industry, and are to be evaluated under the RA 8800 and its rules:

a. the idling of 7 modern and dry kilns with an annual capacity of 3,270,500 metric tons (81.78 million bags) which is equivalent to US$360-540 million of investments; and

b. price undercutting or the difference between the landed cost of imports and local cement prices that explains why cement imports have grabbed a substantial share of the market in a short period. Cement is a commodity that competes on the basis of price, such that a small price difference can induce market shifts.

Sixth, the TC used incorrect data

• **The TC used incorrect data in determining when the import surge began.** Despite its own findings that 1999 imports increased by 163.32% when compared to 1998 levels, the TC concluded that import surge did not begin in 1999 but in 2000. In ruling that import surge began in 2000 and not in 1999, it compared the 1999 import figures with 1996, instead of the previous year of 1998 (despite the 163.32% increase in imports!). The 1996 data could not be used as base figure because this was the time when the industry could not supply the demand and consequently, imports had to be resorted to fill the demand;

• **The TC used incorrect data in determining capacity utilization.** It used clinker production and rated capacities of kilns for clinker, instead of cement; and

• **The TC used incorrect data in determining decline in sales volume.** It used an erroneous figure of January-September 2000 sales volume that resulted in a lower decline in sales volume when compared to January-September 2001 sales. Instead of 9,053,000 metric tons, the TC erroneously used 8,205,000 metric tons as the sales figure for January-September 2000.

Seventh, the TC made unsubstantiated conclusions on public interest

Despite its refusal to accept any evidence on public interest since, according to Chairman Edgardo Abon, this is not the TC's concern but of Secretary Roxas, the TC surprisingly concluded that the non-imposition of safeguards will benefit industry, consumers, cities and municipalities hosting cement plants, and the construction industry workers.

How the TC concluded that the non-imposition of safeguard will benefit the industry and the cities and municipalities (whom it admitted to be reliant upon the cement industry) is inexplicable. All public officials and civic leaders have filed voluminous letter with the TC to state that their communities will suffer irreparable harm if no safeguards are imposed.

How the TC concluded that the non-imposition of the safeguards will benefit consumers is also inexplicable since in its January 2002 Staff Report, it found out that imported cement was being sold at higher retail prices (P120 per bag) than local cement (P117 per bag).

How its negative recommendation will benefit the construction workers is not even explained. The construction workers never appeared before the TC and even the contractors never made this outrageous claim during the public consultations.

QUITE CLEARLY, the TC made a recommendation without regard to the policy implications of its ruling specially with respect to the viability of the safeguard measures if the threshold of serious injury nor the threat of serious injury is unduly increased.

In view of the economic policy of unilateral reduction of tariffs inherited from the past administrations and our vulnerable market, the Philippines is expected to be a user of safeguards. But by unduly increasing the benchmark for obtaining safeguard measures, the TC unwittingly foreclosed an important safety valve that could allow the country to adhere to its international trade obligations but in accordance with its own national priorities, development plan and interest. In tipping the scale in favor of importers, it decided not just against the cement industry but all other ailing local industries and agricultural producers.

Under the precedent established by the TC, an industry has to be dead or dying before safeguards can be imposed. Just like the National Steel Corporation case where the TC did increase the tariff on dumped imported steel from 3% to 7% but only after the NSC had already shut down. A case of too little, too late.

Under the precedent established by the TC, an industry has to be dead or dying before safeguards can be imposed.

The debate about safeguards is ultimately a debate on the future of the country and its local industries and agricultural sector. It is a debate about whether we shall still strive to be self-sufficient and producing nation, or whether we should just allow our industries to die and have imports control and dominate the market. Do we sacrifice long term self-sufficiency for short-term consumerist gratification (which in the case of cement is not even real by is merely an economist's assumption)? Shall we continue to rigidly embrace a blind liberalization policy that looks good in the realm of theory but in reality means the bankruptcy of industries, the loss of jobs and families going hungry?

First it was the steel industry that was first to go due to dumped Russian steel. Now it is the cement industry. How many industries have to go under before we say STOP!

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Notice is given that the estate of sps. Pedro V. Reyes & Ma Consolacion V. Reyes was extra-judicially settled among their heirs per Doc. 62, Page 13, Book 1, Series of 2002 before Not. Public Maria Donata B. Cruz of Q.C PDI-March 18, 25 & April 1, 2002

PERSONAL

NOVENA TO SAINT JUDE
St. Jude, worker of miracles, helper for the helpless, pray for us.
Say nine times a day for nine days. Prayer will be answered by the eighth day, it has never failed
Thank you very much, St. Jude, for favor granted.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED RURAL BANK OF LAVEZARES (Northern Samar), INC. (RBLI)

1. Starting April 2, 2002, the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) thru its duly authorized representatives shall receive claims for insured deposits maintained with the closed Rural Bank of Lavezares (Northern Samar), Inc.
2. Depositors are requested to proceed directly to the premises of the said closed bank from April 2 to April 16, 2002, Mondays thru Fridays, during office hours, where PDIC representatives are stationed to accept claims and entertain queries of depositors.

   After April 16, 2002, all depositors can file their claims personally at the PDIC office from Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or by mail addressd to -

   The Manager
   Claims Processing Center
   Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation
   2228 Chino Roces Avenue, 1231 Makati City
3. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to our representatives when filing their claims:
   a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook and/or Certificate of Time Deposit; and
   b. Latest identification document (ID) bearing the depositor's signature

   Other documents may be required by our representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.
4. Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 3591 as amended by R.A. 7400, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed Rural Bank of Lavezares (Northern Samar) Inc. is on June 28, 2003. After June 28, 2003, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI--April 1 & 2, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
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INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Philippine Heart Center (PHC) invites sealed written bids for six (6) months (July-December 2002) contract Pharma Medical/Laboratory and Foodstuffs Supplies.

Only duly accredited bidders/suppliers will be allowed to participate in the bidding. List of the requirements to be submitted:

1. Letter of Intent
2. SEC Registration
3. Business License
4. License to Operate (BFAD)
5. Financial Statement (last 2 years)
6. ITR (last 2 years)
7. DOH Accreditation
8. Location Map of Office
9. List of Clients

All interested bidders/suppliers must submit their accreditation documents on or before **April 15, 2002** at Purchasing Division.

The PHC serves the right to disqualify any prospective bidder/s if found if they have submitted falsified documents and/or information the right to accept or reject any bid, and annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder/s.

(Sgd.) **ROMEO J. SANTOS, M.D.**
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI -- Mar. 22, 23, 24, 28, 31 & Apr. 1, 2002)

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Bids are hereby invited from LWUA-accredited manufacturers/suppliers/distributors/dealers for the supply and delivery of various pipes, fittings, electro-mechanical equipment (including installation) and other water supply materials for various LWUA-assisted projects.

Accredited firms will be notified in writing of the schedule of bidding for the second quarter of year 2002. Bid documents, including specifications for each bidding, will be available two (2) weeks before the scheduled bid opening at the BAC Secretariat, Ground Floor, LWUA Building, Katipunan Road Balara, Diliman, Quezon City.

(Sgd.) **EDWIN T. RUIZ**
Chairman, BAC 2

(PDI--April 1 & 2, 2002)

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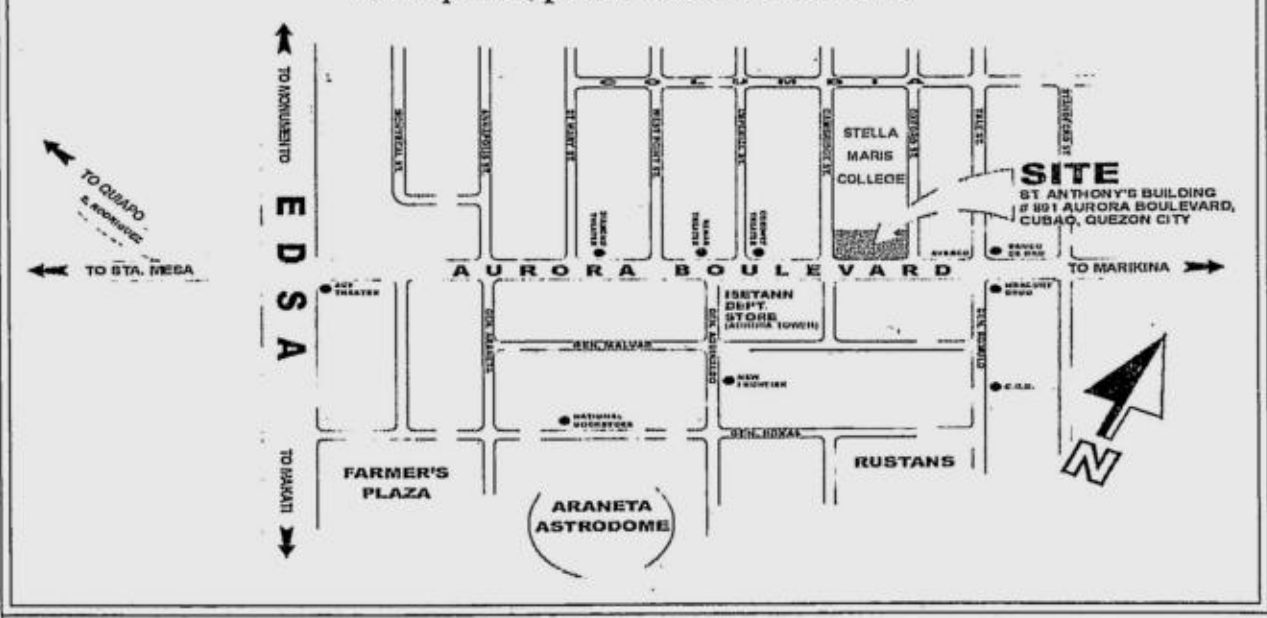

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BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Building 255 Barryman Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines 2222
TEL. NOS. (047) 252 4270* 4214* 4124 FAX NO. (047) 252 4284

March 26, 2002

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

All parties interested to bid for the below-listed items are invited to apply for application for eligibility and to bid with the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), Subic Bay Freeport Zone. Only eligible contractors/suppliers will be invited to participate in the bidding of the below-listed services;

A. Contracts: **SERVICE MAINTENANCE FOR SUN SERVERS AND RELATED PERIPHERALS**

B. Services to be performed include:
   I. Shall provide twenty-four (24) hours by seven (7) days a weeek on-call service for emergency breakdown support
   II. Shall provide the labor, parts and necessary tools and testing instrument needed to repair the unit
   III. Shall provide software and hardware maintenance and troubleshooting for Operating System and Bundled Software.
   IV. Quarterly preventive maintenance of Sun Servers and Peripherals (1 Lot)
   V. Upgrade of the following servers:
      Domain Name Services (DNS) server with Solaris OS
      Mail server with Solaris OS
      1Gb Memory Upgrade of Spectrum Server

C. Approved Budget Cost: **Php = Twelve Million Eighty Five Pesos (P12,085,000.00)**

D. Application for Eligiblity and to Bid is open to all qualified contractors/suppliers. Prospective bidders are required to submit a letter of intent and certified true copy of the following documents:
   1. Article of Incorporation
   2. Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC) Registration
   3. Certificate of Registration with the Dept. of Trade and Industry (if not Corporation)
   4. Valid Mayor's Permit
   5. VAT Registration
   6. Audited Financial Statement for the last two (2) years (certified true copy in sealed envelope)
   7. Presence of Exclusive/Authorized/Sole Distributorship Agreement from the (OEM) Original Equipment Manufacturer, document duly notarized at the point of origin.
   8. Company PROFILE
   9. List of Products
   10. List of Clients

E. Deadline for submission of Accomplished for Eligiblity to bid: **April 12, 2002, 5:00 p.m.**

F. Time and date of Pre-bid Conference and Submission and Opening of Bids shall be confirmed through Bid Bulletin.

Bid documents shall be issued only to the eligible contractor duly notified by SBMA in writing upon payment of the non-refundable cost of bid documents of Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00) only.

All particulars relative to the eligiblity process, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by amended Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) for the procurement of Supplies & Materials.

SBMA reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any defect therein and accept the offer it deems most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO A. INOCENTES**
Vice Chairman, BAC

(PDI -- March 28, 31 & April 1, 2002)

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BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Building 255 Barryman Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines 2222
TEL. NOS. (047) 252 4270* 4214* 4124 FAX NO. (047) 252 4284

March 28, 2002

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

All parties interested to bid for the below-listed items are invited to apply for application for eligibility and to bid with the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), Subic Bay Freeport Zone. Only eligible contractors/suppliers will be invited to participate in the bidding of the below-listed services;

A. Contracts: **ONE (1) LOT SECURITY SERVICES CONTRACT AT BTPI, SBFZ**

B. Approved Budget Cost: **Php = Two Million Three Hundred Twenty One Thousand and Three Hundred Eighty Two Pesos (P2,321,382.00)**

C. Application Particulars for Eligiblity is open to all qualified Contractors with the following requirements:
   1. Article of Incorporation
   2. Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC) Registration
   3. Certificate of Registration with the Dept. of Trade and Industry (if not Corporation)
   4. SSS Registration and copy of R5 for the last two (2) years
   5. Certificate of Payment from SSS (latest)
   6. DOLE Registration
   7. Valid Mayor's Permit
   8. VAT Registration
   9. Audited Financial Statement for the last two (2) years (certified true copy in sealed envelope)
   10. Latest Income Tax Return from BIR
   11. License to operate issued by PNP (SUSIA) Camp Crame
   12. Accreditation & Certification from the Philippine Association of Detective & Protective Agency (PADPA)
   13. List of Equipment/ guns/ radios to be used on this particular project
   14. DOTC License for radios
   15. Non-pending case from the Department of Labor & Employment (DOLE)
   16. Required Drug Test for every Security Officers of the Company
   17. Security Bond from the insurance company
   18. Company PROFILE
   19. List of previous & present clients
   20. Proposed Organizational Chart
   21. List of Clients

D. Deadline for submission of Accomplished for Eligiblity to bid: **April 12, 2002, 5:00 p.m.**

E. Time and date of Pre-bid Conference and Submission/Opening of Bids shall be confirmed through Bid Bulletin.

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(Sgd.) **ANTONIO A. INOCENTES**
Vice Chairman, BAC

(PDI -- March 28, 31 & April 1, 2002)

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BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Building 255 Barryman Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines 2222
TEL. NOS. (047) 252 4270* 4214* 4124 FAX NO. (047) 252 4284

March 26, 2002

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

All parties interested to bid for the below-listed items are invited to apply for application for eligibility and to bid with the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), Subic Bay Freeport Zone. Only eligible contractors/suppliers will be invited to participate in the bidding of the below-listed services;

A. Contracts: **ONE (1) LOT SERVICE MAINTENANCE FOR NETWORK EQUIPMENT.**

B. Services to be performed include:

   Perform on-site complete cleaning, lubrication, adjustment, alignment, inspection and testing of all networking equipment and its accessories on a quarterly and shall provide a comprehensive report of equipment status;

   Repair and/or troubleshoot all malfunctioning units or replace with new parts/ components within 2 hours to minimize downtime. There should be loaner equipment/ units and spare parts situated at the Data Center for emergency cases;

   Provide twenty-four (24) hours by seven (7) days a week including holidays, on-call and phone support for emergency breakdown;

   All replacement and upgrade of the equipment must be of the same brand/product (e.g. Cabletron, Pairgain, 3Com, Network Appliance)

C. Approved Budget Cost: **Php = Five Million Six Hundred Thousand Pesos (P5,600,000.00)**

D. Application Particulars for Eligiblity is open to all qualified Contractors with the following requirements:
   1. Article of Incorporation
   2. Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC) Registration
   3. Certificate of Registration with the Dept. of Trade and Industry (if not Corporation)
   4. Valid Mayor's Permit
   5. VAT Registration
   6. Audited Financial Statement for the last two (2) years (certified true copy in sealed envelope)
   7. Presence of Exclusive/Authorized/Sole Distributorship Agreement from the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM), document duly notarized at the point of origin.
   8. Company PROFILE
   9. List of Products
   10. List of Clients

E. Deadline for submission of Accomplished for Eligiblity to bid: **April 12, 2002, 5:00 p.m.**

F. Time and date of Pre-bid Conference and Submission/Opening of Bids shall be confirmed through Bid Bulletin.

Bid documents shall be issued only to the eligible contractor duly notified by SBMA in writing upon payment of the non-refundable cost of bid documents of Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00) only.

All particulars relative to the eligiblity process, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by amended Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) for the procurement of supplies & materials.

SBMA reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any defect therein and accept the offer it deems most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO A. INOCENTES**
Vice Chairman, BAC

(PDI -- March 28, 31 & April 1, 2002)

DAR
Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM

March 20, 2002

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bidding and Awards Committee of the Department of Agrarian Reform is inviting all interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for its janitorial and security services.

Instruction to Bidders will be available starting **April 1, 2002**, at the Office of the Chief, General Services Division, located at the basement, DAR Main Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Terms, conditions and specifications will be discussed during the pre-bidding conference on **April 5, 2002**, 9:00 a.m. at H.R.D Training Center, DAR Compound, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City. Interested bidders are required to pay the non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) before submitting the technical and financial documents not later than 9:00 o'clock in the morning of **April 22, 2002** at the HRD Center, DAR Compound.

The BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal is the most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ROLANDO LI. QUERUBIN**
Undersecretary for PMAO and
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - March 22 & April 1, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION
Philippine Coast Guard - Project Management Office
2nd flr. S&L Bldg., 1500 Blvd. cor. R. Salas St., Ermita, Mla.
Tel. No. 5258843 Fax No. 5258843 loc 122

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

CONSTRUCTION OF FOUNDATIONS; ERECTION OF TOWERS; INSTALLATION OF EQUIPMENT; INCLUDING LIGHTNING PROTECTION SYSTEMS; AND; COMMISSIONING OF TWENTY FIVE (25) LIGHTHOUSES (THIRD BATCH) IN VARIOUS SITES COVERED BY MARITIME SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, PHASE III (MSIP III)

The Department of Transportation and Communications, Philippine Coast Guard - Project Management Office (DOTC PCG-PMO) through the MSIP III - Bid and Award Committee (MSIP III - BAC) is inviting General Contractors for the aforementioned Project.

APPROVED BUDGET : PHP 20.226 MILLION
SOURCE OF FUNDING : LOCAL COUNTERPART FUNDS (GOP)

The scope of works covers civil, tower erection, electrical installation and other miscellaneous works to complete the Project. Prospective bidders should have valid license and classification issued by the Philippine Contractor Accreditation Board (PCAB), with the following particulars:

Category and Classification	IAC Registration
Category "A" Classification: General Engineering	Range: At least Medium "B" Kind of Project: Ports, Harbor & Offshore Engineering

Pre-qualification Documents shall be available for issuance to interested bidders for free from **02-10 April 2002** at address given above.

However, the Bid Documents, Plans and Drawings will only be issued to eligible bidders upon the payment of a non-refundable fee of Eight Thousand Pesos (PHP 8,000.00) at the Cashier's Office, PCG-PMO.

The deadline for the submission of duly accomplished Pre-qualification Statements shall be on **12 April 2002**, 10:00 AM at PCG-PMO.

PRE-BID CONFERENCE : **06 May 2002**
SUBMISSION/OPENING OF BID PROPOSAL : **27 May 2002**

The MSIP-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reasons, to waive any formality or technicality, and to award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **WILFREDO M. TRINIDAD**
Undersecretary and
Chairman, MSIP III BAC

(PDI--April 1, 3 & 7, 2002)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
ADB-ASSISTED
SUBIC BAY AREA MUNICIPALITIES DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
City of Olongapo

21 March 2002

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

1. The Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank herein referred to as the "Bank", in various currencies towards the cost of the Subic Bay Area Municipal Development Project and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be eligible for payments under contract for the Construction of the Elicaño Bridge, located at the City of Olongapo.
2. The project calls for the construction of a single span reinforced concrete deck girder bridge having a total length of eighteen (18) meters. The concrete deck has a clear width of 7.32 meters having a pedestrian sidewalks of 1.10 meters. The bridge's approach consists of 166 meters concrete pavement at the Elicaño Street with a 342 meters concrete pavement connecting road to the former Old Hospital Area. The abutments are founded on 0.40m x 0.40m reinforced concrete piles. The bridge will be provided with street lights to enhance visibility at night. The project also includes the landscaping for the roadside development.
3. The City Government of Olongapo, an Implementing Agency for the project is inviting contractors accredited by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for a prequalification to bid for the abovementioned project. Interested bidders classified and registered with the Inter-Agency Committee on Registration and Classification of Contractors as "Medium B" on Roads and Bridges and prequalified by the Local PBAC are eligible to bid for this project. Experience on related project is necessary.
4. Pre-C Forms shall be made available to contractors classified above upon submittal of Letter of Intent and copy of latest PCAB License and payment of non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 at the PBAC Secretariat, City Planning and Development Office, Olongapo City. Bring original copies of PCAB License for authentication. Schedule of activities are as follows:

Activity	Date
a. Submission of Letter of Intent	March 22 to April 5, 2002
b. Issuance of Pre-Forms	March 22 to April 5, 2002
c. Submission of Pre-C Statement	April 8 to 19, 2002
d. Notification of Prequalified/Predisqualified Contractors	May 13 to 17, 2002
e. Issuance of Bid Documents	May 20 to 24, 2002
f. Submission and Opening of Bids	June 24, 2002

5. Complete set of Bid/Tender Documents will be issued to pre-qualified contractors upon payment of non-refundable fee of P3,000.00 at the City Treasurer's Office.
6. Submission of Bid Documents shall not be later than June 24, 2002 at 2:00 p.m. and shall be opened at the City Council Session Hall on the date mentioned above.
7. The City of Olongapo reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects or informalities contained therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the City Government.

(Sgd.) **KATHERINE H. GORDON**
City Mayor and PBAC Chairman

(PDI -- Mar. 22, 25 & Apr. 1, 2002)

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Lines, Recruitment, Obituaries, Bidding

in Luzon

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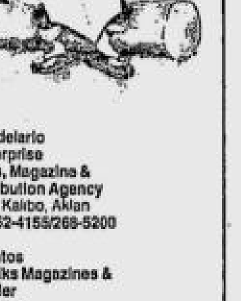

in Visayas

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Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario Street, Cebu City
Tel. No. (032) 232-7618
Dumaguete City
Mr. Reymund Mercado
Hi-Top News Magazine & General Merchandise
Dr. V. Locsin Street, Dumaguete City
Tel. Nos. (035) 225-5796/225-4364
Mr. Ramon Charles Sy
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Dr. V. Locsin Street, Dumaguete City
Tel. Nos. (035) 225-4320/422-7452
Fax No. (035) 255-1162
Iloilo
Mr Eduardo Ty
c/o Ms. Marilou Ty
Eddie-Mar News & Magazine Center
Ground Floor, Bombo Radio Building
Mapa Street, Iloilo City
Tel. No. (033) 337-3120/337-6016
Mr. Jim Feliciano
309 Ledesma Street, Iloilo City
Tel. No. (033) 508-2630
Cell. No. (0917) 401-9180

Kalibo
Dra. Besse Candelario
Candelario Enterprise
RB Newspapers, Magazine & Song Hits Distribution Agency
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Tel. Nos. (036) 262-4156/268-5200
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M. Santos Komiks Magazines & Newspaper Dealer
Door C, MB Building
Fuentes Drive, Roxas City
Tel. Nos. (036) 621-5565/522-6925
Tacloban City
Mr. Neil Montejo
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246 Avenida Veteranos
Tacloban City
Tel. Nos. (053)325-6743/321-2954
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Mr. Ferdinand Mercado
Doña Rosario Village
G. Penaflor Street
Tagbilaran City
Tel. No. (038) 411-5007

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Cagayan de Oro City
OMNI General Merchandise
Dr. 1 De Leon Building
Pabayo-Pacana Streets
Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. Nos. (08822) 722-530
(088) 856-5253
Grandstar News & Magazines
122 Cruz Taal corner Pabayo Street
Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. Nos. (088) 857-2571/857-1612
Telefax No. (088) 231-3248
E-mail: grandstar@hotmail.com
Cotabato
Marquez News & Magazine Agency
Marquez Building, 51 Sinsuat Avenue
Cotabato City
Tel. Nos. (064) 421-3264/421-8511/ (064) 229-7069 (Lotlot - Secretary)
Davao City
Dabaw Periodicals, Inc.
Santos Building, Gov. Duterte Street
Davao City (Ironing Galleria Hotel)
Tel. Nos. (082) 226-4406/221-3379/ 221-3424/226-2931

Babasahin ATBP.
Lower Level, Gaisano Mall
Bajada, Davao City
Ground Floor, Victoria Plaza
Bajada, Davao City
Tel. Nos. (082) 221-3927/227-4410/300-2920
General Santos
Mr. Ramon Dimalanta
GSC Newscenter, Dimalanta Building
35 Pioneer Avenue, General Santos City
Tel. Nos. (083) 301-8731/301-6244
Pagadian City
Mr. Eduardo Villar Clavero
Edmar News - Advertising Agency
Bonifacio Street, Pagadian City
Tel. Nos. (062) 215-1448/214-2641
Cell. No. (0919) 660-0001
Zamboanga
Mr. James Hao
Marlen's Variety Store
86-88 Sevilla Street, Zamboanga City
Tel. Nos. (062) 991-4294/991-0973
Mr. Ruben Bautista
c/o Norie Bautista
Christian Vincent Newsstand
P. Briantes Street corner Campaner Street
Zamboanga City
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☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 (9129011 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
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Love does not die; People do
So when all that is left of me is love
Give me away...

Dominga Anico Andaman

"Nanay Inggay"
Founder and Treasurer
ST. DOMINIC MEDICAL CENTER, Bacoor, Cavite
and Bucal, Maragondon, Cavite

Peacefully joined our Lord on March 27, 2002
at the age of 78.

Her loving husband **GREGORIO Sr.**; children **PAT** and **Elvie, MARET** and **Rey Rillo; EMMIE** and **Joe Sagala; Mayor MONTE** and **Tita; YNN** and **Robert Pelia; JOJO** and **Pinky;**

GRANDCHILDREN **Anna** and **Boogie, Jane** and **Alain, Jade, Jasmine, Caroline, Gregorio III** and **Aimee; Reimarie; Julius Christian, Jeffrey, Jenny; Mon Anthony, Margaret Raizza, Dominga Erika; Angelique Lyn, Dominique Ann, Stephanie Joy; Greg Jinichi, Greg Cenon, Greg Dominic, Greg Luigi** and **Ma. Anastasia**; GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN **Patricia Audrey, Ima Karen** and **Matthew Dreyzel**; Brothers and sisters, in-laws and her St. Dominic Family request relatives, friends and readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Calle Valencia Cor. Calle Galicia, La Residencia de Bacoor, Aniban I, Bacoor, Cavite and will be transferred to the family residence in Bucal II, Maragondon, Cavite on March 31, 2002.

Interment will be on April 3, 2002, Wednesday at the Family Mausoleum, Bucal, Maragondon, Cavite after the 3:00 p.m. Mass.

"If we believe that Jesus died and rose, God will bring forth with Him from the dead those also who have fallen asleep believing in Him."
1 Thessalonians 4:14

SIR KNIGHT EDUARDO K. TAN, SR.

Peacefully joined our Creator on Tuesday
March 26, 2002 at the age of 81.

His loving wife late **HELEN QUE TAN**

His loving children **Eduardo Jr.** (†), **Arch. Lorenzo, Sr. Mary Josephine, O.P, Victoria, Regina, Lourdes, Henry, Stephen, Martin, Engr. Patrick, Theresa, & Dra. Helena**; sons-in-law **Dr. Jose Castro, Florencio Co, Felipe Chua, & Dennis Olivan**; daughters-in-law **Ma. Teresa, Nenita, Gayle, Marie Sherida, Yin Ping** and **Engr. Mary Grace**; grandchildren **Ann Margaret, Princess Charlotte, Angela May, Charles Anthony, Ralph Kendrich, Karen Daphne, Michael Joseph, Graziel Dianne, Aldrich Johnson, Simonne Patrick, Lanz Aaron, Matthew Angelo, & Shanley Johnson**; and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lies in state at Quiogue Funeral Home, Dagupan City.

Interment will be on Thursday, April 4, 2002 at ETERNAL GARDEN MEMORIAL PARK, Dagupan City after the 9:30 a.m. Requiem Mass at ST. THERESE PARISH CHURCH, Dagupan City.

REMEDIOS ANGELES REYES

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on March 28, 2002 at the age of 84.

Her loving husband **Arsenio**; children **Deo & Ellen, Angelo & Ditas, Seny & Raffy Zamora, Noel & Gema, Tino & Malou**; grandchildren **Mirelle, Colette & Giselle; Alex & Audrey; Rachelle; Aby, Timmy & Joel; Mike, Allan, Martin & Mark**; relatives and friends request prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Faith Chapel, Arlington Memorial Chapel, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 AM on Tuesday, April 2, 2002. Interment will immediately follow at La Loma Cemetery, Metro Manila.

"To you Lord, I lift up my soul".
— Psalm 25:24

JESUS NUÑEZ BAUTISTA, JR.

Peacefully joined our Lord on March 27, 2002
at the age of 60.

His wife **Nenita**; children **Patrick; Jazmin & Ess III**, relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat, Parañaque.

Interment will be on Wednesday, April 3, 2002 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque after the 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass at Presentation of Child Jesus Church, Phase III B.F. Homes, Parañaque City.

"The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want"
Psalm 23:1

Our Dearly Beloved Daddy

LEODEGARIO A. CABRERA

Peacefully joined our Lord on March 29, 2002
at the age of 76.

His loving wife **Lucy**; sister **Cena**; children & children-in-law **Rhea & Vince, Tiza & Karl, Alec, Meggy & Rene, Babu, Ricky & Ammie, Jakko & Virg**; grandchildren **Nicole, Su Mei, Chloe, Luigi, Mika, Adi & Sabby**; relatives & friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the St. Alphonsus de Liguori Church, Chapel 1, Magallanes Village, Makati City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, April 2, 2002 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque after the 8:00 a.m. Holy Mass at St. Alphonsus de Liguori Church.

We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death. He will raise us to life with Jesus. He will present us, along with you, to God.
2 Corinthians 4:14

Message of Thanks

For visiting us and being with us in our time of sorrows...
For praying with us and for us...
For the Mass cards and messages of sympathy and condolence...
For the beautiful flowers and gifts to express compassion...
For joining us in our nightly vigils...
For attending the Masses and funeral rites...
For thinking of us in hour of grief...
For all that you have done to console our hearts...

Our Sincerest Gratitude
From The Family of the Late

CHARLES TANG LEE

Who joined his Creator on March 26, 2002

Wife **Regina**; children **Jojo & Marie, Patrick & Nanette, Christopher & Ghin Eng, Anne Marie & Henry, Timothy & Gina, Benilda**, his brothers & sisters, grandchildren and relatives.

Isaiah 46:4
Even to your old age I will be the same
And even to your graying years I will bear you!
I have done it and I will carry you
And I will bear you and I will deliver you.

MARIANO "NONONG" H. DIZON

July 16, 1914 - March 27, 2002

We, wife (†) **Melding**; children **Sonny & Jan, Becky & Rene, Livy & Christian, Chito**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, brother, sisters and other love ones request you to join us in celebrating our beloved Papa's coming home to the Lord.

His body lies in state at Chapel 3-C, Nacional Memorial Homes, 264 G. Araneta Ave., Q.C.

Interment will be on Tuesday, April 2, 2002 at Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

In Loving Memory
of
Eduardo "Duards" Montilla

whose 8th Death Anniversary
We celebrate today, April 01, 2002.
We miss him, we love him.
All masses today are offered for his eternal reposed.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones the following establishments can help

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City;
Tels. 715-1025, 715-1031, 715-1027
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AUREA QUIOGUE FUNERAL HOMES
243 A.B. Fernandez Ave., Dagupan City, Pangasinan
Tels. (0785) 522-3451, 522-2120, (0917) 434-9978
CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
1306 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City, Tel. 732-0309, 732-1095
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
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Mandaue City, Cebu, Tels. 346-2543, 346-2601
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Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City, Tels. 231-0721, 231-3192
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City;
Tels. (082) 227-1201, 227-1268
DAYAO FUNERAL HOME
#2 Bayani St., Gulod, Quezon City;
Tels. 740-2583, 781-3705, 781-3658, 413-9400, 715-5594
DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
#42 Upper Kalaklan, Olongapo City;
Tels. (047) 222-3605, (047) 611-1036, (047) 222-4512, (047) 224-2014

DON BOSCO CHAPELS
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FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila,
Tels. 2812963, 2813034, 2810822
FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City;
Tels. (045) 888-2959, (045) 322-5247
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Tels. 646-1725, 646-1730
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FUNERARIA SAMSON
148 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite;
Tels. (046) 471-3375, 471-2875
GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
Calasadang Bago, Paranaque, Metro Manila, Tels. 642-8181 to 82

HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
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Cell (0917) 5680138, (0917) 5680145
Manila #23 Palo St., Project 2, Quezon City, Tel. 434-3268
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143 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kalinaya St., Quezon City, Tels. 749-3806 to 11
79 Nagpalan Rd., Baguio City, Tel. (074) 443-3337
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EDSA cor. Barnardino St., Guadalupe, Makati City;
Tels. 895-1011 to 19
LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK CHAPELS
& CREMATORY SERVICES
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Tels. 941-3196 to 98, 941-3676, Telefax 941-3577
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MT. SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL
Arellano St., Dagupan City, Tels. (075) 515-5900;
515-5529, 522-8783, (0919) 345-7131
NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES
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Tels. 713-5231 to 35, 714-0887, 714-0888

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436 Camerina St., Pasay City, Tels. 831-1204
Sucat Branch, 8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City; Tels.
826-1378, 826-0982, (0915) 712-1220
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City, Tel. Nos. 843-8835/30, Fax No. 843-9223
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, Telefax 724-4139, 725-2044
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Countdown to 'YOU Summer Break Party'

READY for a different kind of party?

Just as it stands out from other youth-oriented websites, so too will YOU.inq7.net break the stereotypes during the day-long celebration of its formal launch on April 6 at the Glorietta Activity Center. Head on over to the "YOU Summer Break Party" and you'll find that this is definitely not one of your run-of-the-mill launches and happenings.

YOU is INQ7.net's website for today's youth at http://you.inq7.net. INQ7 Interactive Inc. is the joint online and multimedia news and information delivery company of the Philippine Daily Inquirer Inc. and GMA Network Inc.

"One of the things that really sets this launch apart is the sheer scope and magnitude of the event," said INQ7 marketing officer Marilyn Dee.

Dee pointed out that the event offers a wide range of activities catering to the different age groups that make up the YOU online community. YOU is composed of three main sections: 2bU!, Cross-Campus and Junior Inquirer.

2bU! captures the spirit of today's youth, while Cross-Campus focuses on the campus scene and the concerns of high school and college students. Junior Inquirer caters to grade school students and talks about the interests of these future adults.

To kick off the day-long celebration on April 6, YOU will hold a kiddie parade. The parade will start from the Glorietta 4 entrance at 10 a.m., after which the performers will take center stage at the Glorietta Activity Center for the circus show. Kids will also get the chance to unleash their creativity in a coloring contest, with gift certificates from T.G.I. Friday's up for grabs.

After the parade, the winners of the Philippine Schools CyberFair contest will be announced. This school-based, collaborative project encourages community-building and immerses schools and students in the virtual world.

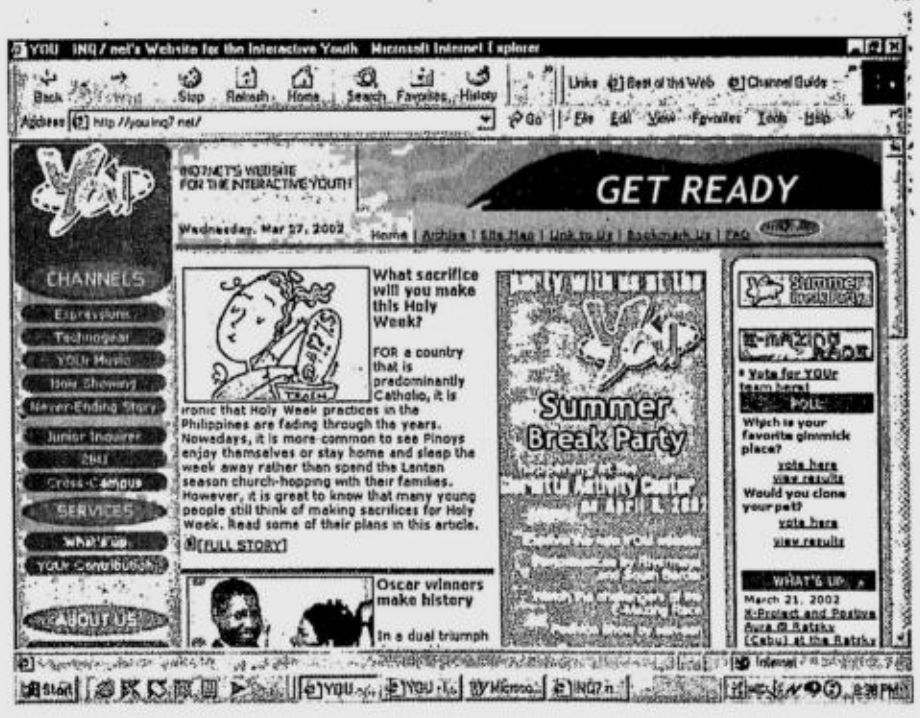
Then, several teams will compete in the interactive E-mazing Race, which will take them through the length and breadth of the Glorietta mall and even into cyberspace. The contestants will have to overcome different mental and physical challenges to find clues and discover their next destination.

Afterwards, an innovative fashion show by YOU and Sari-Sari will showcase the latest trends for the youth. The models will all be students and amateurs, showing off fashion statements inspired by the YOU site itself.

Then, it's time to dance to the music of two of the country's most popular bands, Rivermaya and South Border.

A host of other surprises and freebies also await you throughout the day-long celebration.

To get your online invitation to the "YOU Summer Break Party," just log on to http://you.inq7.net/register/ and fill out the registration form. Not only will this serve as your online passport to the event, but it will also be your virtual raffle ticket.



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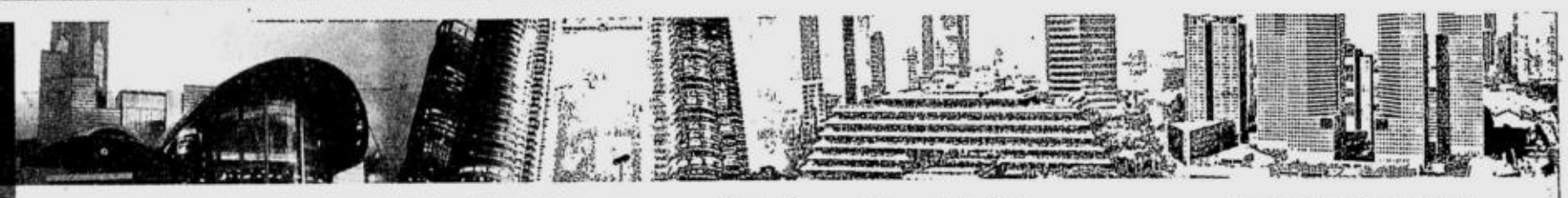

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INFOTECH
Editor Leo Magno

RP marks 8th anniversary of Internet in the country

By Joey G. Alarilla
INQ7.net

MARCH 29, 1994. A date that Filipino Netizens will always remember as the day the Philippines entered cyberspace.

Sept. 11, 2001. A day that will live in infamy, as terrorist attacks in the United States claimed thousands of lives and brought down the twin towers of the World Trade Center.

Amid the tragedy of 9-11 and a world forever changed by the war against terrorism, however, the Internet passed the acid test.

During the early days of the tragedy, which disrupted normal business channels and operations, the Internet backbone of e-commerce performed seamlessly. Not only that, but the Internet proved to be the most reliable source of information for the world, and e-mail the most dependable tool.

Today, it may be hard for us to believe that e-mail was once an arcane tool and the Internet was the obscure playground of scientists, academics and other specialists who tended to fall under the blanket term of "geeks." Since being welcomed into the World Wide Web, however, the Philippines has seen the growth of local websites, from the initial personal pages to corporate sites, from static text to multimedia, from free content to e-commerce.

Eight years ago, the Philippines was officially connected to the global Internet when Philnet's connection to the Internet went live via a hook-up with Sprint. The Philnet project was a collaboration between the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and the academe.

This year, March 29 happens to fall on a Good Friday, as the Philippines, Asia's only Roman Catholic nation, observes Holy Week.

As in years past, Filipino Netizens mark the anniversary of the Internet in various ways. E-groups such as members of Internet pioneer Jim Ayson's Philippine Cyberspace Review mailing list, traditionally get together in EBs or "eyeball" parties. EB is an IRC (Internet relay chat) term, now somewhat dated, for seeing people in real life when you previously only corresponded with them online.

Another event that has already become a local Net tradition is One Internet Day at www.oneinternetday.com. This annual event was originally introduced in 2000 by the Philippine Internet Society, as part of the lobbying cry for the passage of the country's E-Commerce Law.

The One Internet Day 2002 celebration spans events in Manila, the United States, Cagayan de Oro, Catanduanes, Cebu, Davao, Iligan, Dubai and Riyadh. Just as the Internet has created a borderless world, so does the Web bring together Filipinos throughout the Philippines and across the world in a collective celebration.

Digital divide

Much has happened in the past eight years, and the Internet has brought new opportunities and challenges, solutions and problems, benefits and dangers. Like any tool, the Internet is neither good nor evil. It is not a Holy Grail or silver bullet that can immediately solve the country's problems.

Nor is it, as some might think, the embodiment of the worst in human nature. Like any other tool, it can be a little bit of both, depending on how we use it.

True, the dotcom boom is over, and many of yesterday's dotcoms have become "dotgones." Still, the Internet has proven itself to be a highly effective, resilient tool that has become indispensable not only to business but also different aspects of our lives.

Much has been said about the so-called digital divide that separates the digital "haves" from the digital "have-nots." In this brave new (and virtual) world, wealth is measured in terms of intellectual capital and a nation's Internet infrastructure. While generally the traditional rich nations are still the digital haves, the have-nots can also disenfranchise sectors in a rich society, even as the elite in poor nations can be numbered among the digital haves.

Then, as now, however, the challenge is to make Internet access affordable to more Filipinos. Then, as now, the Internet serves and will continue to serve different constituencies. The dreams of monopolists notwithstanding, the Internet is not about homogenizing the online world.

In the end, as the country celebrates the eighth anniversary of the Internet in the Philippines, let every Filipino celebrate the ties that bind us—and the differences that make us who we are.

Tips in buying a PC

By Jerry Liao

POWERTIPS

HERE are some tips that you may want to consider before buying a personal computer:

(1) Spend some time carefully considering your needs and wants before you proceed to specifying and buying your system. Do your research by looking up product reviews and checking out the manufacturer's website.

(2) Invest some time and effort in choosing a good vendor. Try to buy from reputable local dealers, stores, or from friends' recommendations to avoid being shortchanged.

(3) Don't assume the sales person knows a lot more than you do.

(4) Study the warranty. Some cover only parts and labor, others offer 48-hour or next-business-day replacement. If your business depends on your PC, buy it from someone who provides backup machines.

(5) Call your dealer's technical support line to see how long it takes to get through and how fast they can respond to problems you may encounter. Do it at several different times of the day.

(6) Get all the details like processor, main board, graphics card, hard drive, memory; CD/DVD ROM, floppy drive, mouse, ports; modem, sound card and speakers, and software. If the information given you is unclear, consult a friend who is in the know.

(7) After buying, keep the original specification sheet and update it each time you add a new component. An accurate record of your system's configuration will allow you to save time and money if your PC needs to be repaired.

For more tips, visit http://www.brainshare.com.ph. We would like to invite our readers to join The Powertips Group. Register online at www.brainshare.com.ph/register.htm and receive free tips via e-mail. For your comments, questions and suggestions, send your e-mail to infochat@mozcom. com

CHANGING OF GUARDS AT FPI

Meet the new defender of local industries

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

RESINS Inc. chair Meneleo Carlos Jr. knew that he had very big shoes to fill when he was elected to replace Raul T. Concepcion as chair of the Federation of Philippine Industries.

But his ascension as head of one of the most influential business groups in the country also comes at an opportune time when the government has become more sympathetic to the plight of domestic producers in the face of the relentless assault of foreign imports in their home markets.

And Carlos has the persona to fight for the various issues facing local industries, having been involved in local manufacturing for the past 40 years.

He was kidnapped in the '90s but escaped from his captors and since then took on a quieter role for a few years.

But with his new hat, he cannot stay behind the scenes; with the various problems facing local manufacturers, Carlos will have to be in the forefront.

In an interview with Business Monday, Carlos, who has been in the chemical and wood adhesives industry for four decades, says the government was more sensitive to the FPI's clamor to slow down the pace of trade liberalization and hoist the safety nets against import surge now than it was during the group's formative years in the late 1980s to early 1990s.

Carlos says the pain of seeing real data showing massive plant closures and job layoffs from years of tariff cutbacks has made the government realize the folly of believing too much in the theory that free trade is good for everybody.

He says the government fully embraced trade liberalization and ignored the pleas of industries since the late 1980s. For every turmoil that the business community faced in the last decade, from the power crisis to the financial meltdown, Carlos says the industries were left to fend for themselves.

Only a few years ago, it was unthinkable for the country's trade chief to consider withdrawing from the Cairns Group—a lobby group of agriculture exporting countries led by Australia—much less rethinking the country's membership in the World Trade Organization.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II told reporters that the Philippines might withdraw from the WTO if the benefits from its membership were too meager to compensate for the harm caused to local industries. You could just hear the FPI founders say, "I told you so."

Carlos, who believes that the Philippines should stay as a member of the WTO, stresses that the FPI was never against globalization. "We just don't want to open up the market when the industries are not yet ready for greater competition from imports. We believe that the Philippine industries can compete if we are on the same footing as everybody—the same cost of inputs and services."

He says manufacturing industries closed down not because they were inefficient but because they were burdened with the high cost of inputs—labor costs are high, infrastructure is inadequate, services are expensive and raw materials are prohibitive.

Carlos says the government made matters even worse for the industry sector when it opened the country's markets to foreign competition way ahead of other countries and even before safety nets were put in place.

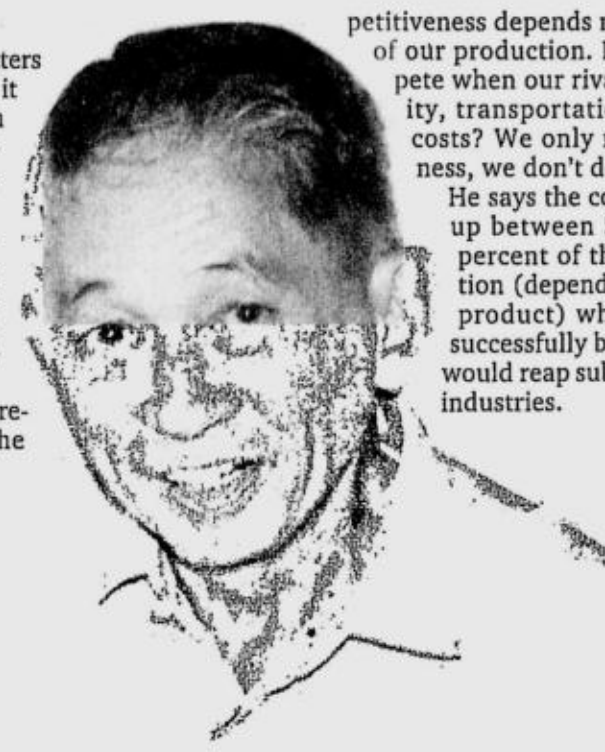
But Carlos wants the FPI to move beyond the debate on tariffs and trade liberalization because the government could only repair and not undo the damage wrought by the trade liberalization.

"What we are focusing now is how to reduce the cost of doing business in the country. The government can still do a lot in this area, and our role is to ensure that it implements what it commits to the private sector," Carlos says.

Carlos says the FPI was particularly concerned about the cost of services, both government and private, in the country that hobbles industries from competing with foreign rivals.

These prohibitively priced services include electricity and water utilities; road, air, and sea transport costs; and financing. "We have always stated that our competitiveness depends mainly on the cost of our production. How can we compete when our rivals pay lower utility, transportation and financing costs? We only manage our business, we don't do miracles."

He says the cost of services eats up between 5 percent and 50 percent of the cost of production (depending on the type of product) which, if addressed successfully by the government, would reap substantial savings to industries.



MENELEO Carlos: What we are focusing on now is how to reduce the cost of doing business in the country. The government can still do a lot in this area, and our role is to ensure that it implements what it commits to the private sector.

Rich families prompt rise of wealth management firms

GENEVA—Imagine having so much money that your family becomes the size of a small institution.

It may sound like heaven, but when a family gets so rich, it takes on hassles equal to running a small—or not so small—financial firm, complicated further by family squabbles and the strains of running a business.

As family firms established in the boom days after World War II are passed on, trillions of dollars of "money in motion" is estimated to be up for grabs in the family wealth market.

Mary-Jane Fredrickson of the Family Office Exchange (FOX) estimates that $5 trillion to $40 trillion is in a transition process from one generation to the next.

Add the rise of the super wealthy, aided by successful dotcom and traditional entrepreneurs, and the pie expands.

Merrill Lynch and Cap Gemini in their 2000 World Wealth Report said ultra-high-net-worth individuals each with at least $30 million in liquid assets held a total of $8 trillion.

The British strategy think tank Scorpio Partnership says there are 11,300 families in Europe each worth more than $100 million.

The promise of that huge market has not been lost on the big wealth managers like Credit Suisse, UBS and Deutsche Bank, or smaller players like Schroders & Co., the private bank of British fund manager Schroders Plc who launched a family office in January.

Nor has it escaped the attention of tax and legal specialists who believe they can help clients manage their finances, their business and even family relationships.

Their magic formula here has been to set up "Family Offices"—fast becoming a catch-all term for long-term and independent services offered to wealthy families with complex problems like how to manage liquid wealth, succession, and selling a business.

Spoilt for choice?

"Unquestionably there is a trend that would suggest a significant growth in families and professional firms offering family office services," said Fredrickson, whose organization helps "families of exceptional wealth" understand wealth management and guide their selection of strategic advisers.

But the ever-increasing supply makes it difficult to separate the providers who offer a service worth paying for from those who are using the term to seduce super rich clients and as an excuse to slap on higher fees.

Fees for a basic family office, responsible for the administration of the assets, range from 30 to 75 basis points of the total assets under administration, but can easily hit 200 to 300 basis points once more products and services are added.

"Family office is a fashion thing. But it is also a juicy market," said Denise Kenyon-Rouvinez of the Family Business Consulting Group (FBCG) which advises families on wealth, management, strategic and succession issues.

"Some banks do have a genuine interest in their clients but a lot of commercial banks are just after the market share. What they offer behind that family office does not offer much value."

FOX's Fredrickson agreed: "Packaging a series of existing services such as custody, investment management and tax preparation and presenting that as a family office, is doing a disservice to both the client and the organization."

Striking a balance

Any family office is a compromise across dimensions such as independence, control, risk, and prestige.

"Increasingly ultra-high-net-worth families are looking for a greater degree of objectivity and independence," said Ian Partridge, president of Loedstar, which advises families on how to manage their money.

Wealthy families sometimes set up their own family offices, running them as sophisticated investment houses and gathering funds from outside the family.

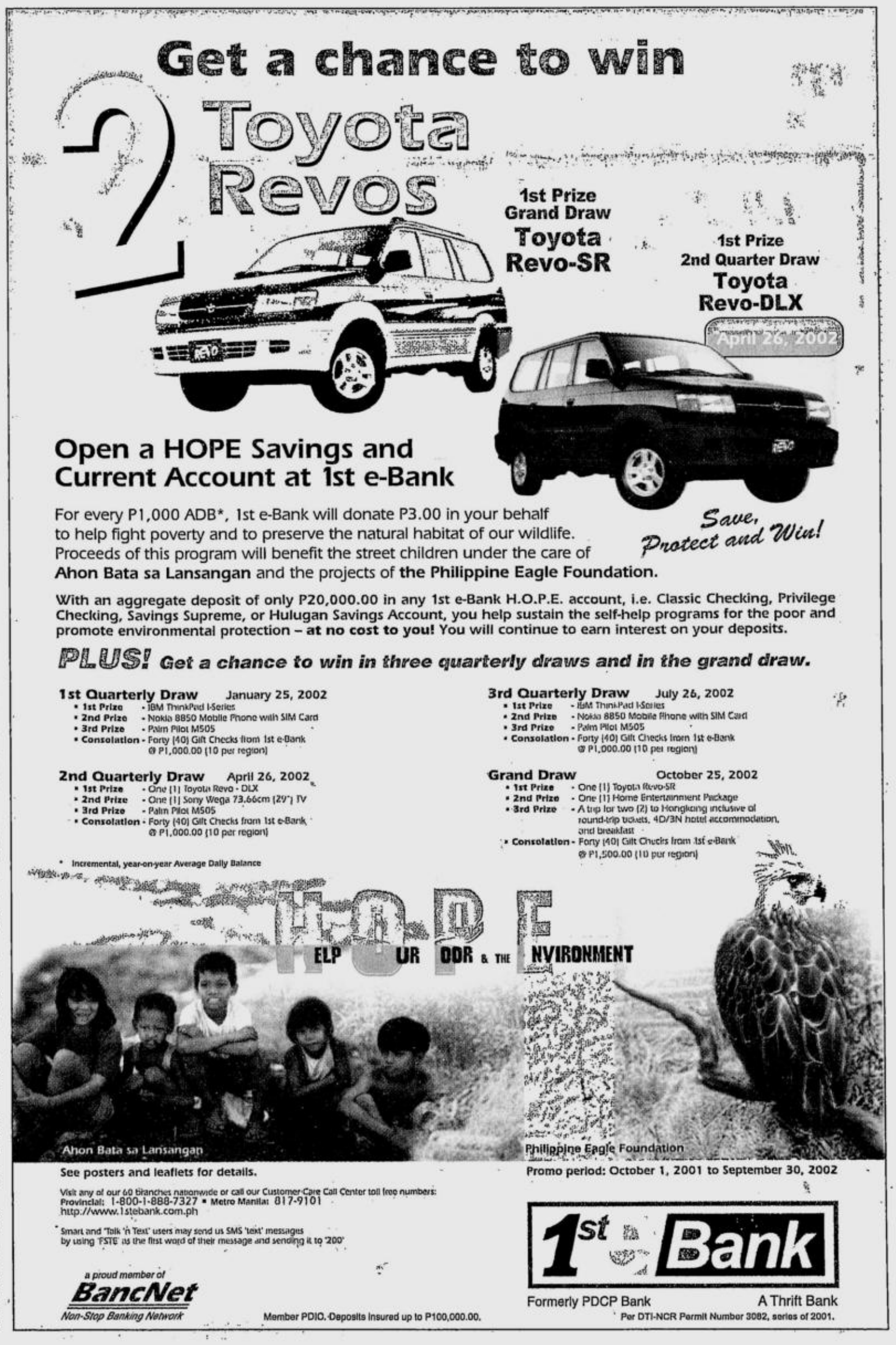
Costs depend on size and scope, but a family creating its own family office from scratch would have to fork out for at least one senior professional, support staff, premises, systems and legal fees. That, experts say, could total $1.5-$2 million with annual running costs almost as high.

Institutions argue they can provide a similar service for less, leveraging on the services they already provide, as well as offering a far more rigorous risk management structure.

But Sebastian Dovey, director of Scorpio, says clients are not yet convinced of the benefits of big bank family offices.

"Clients still have an inherent disbelief that by placing assets with institutions they get independent, objective and value-added services and products," he said.

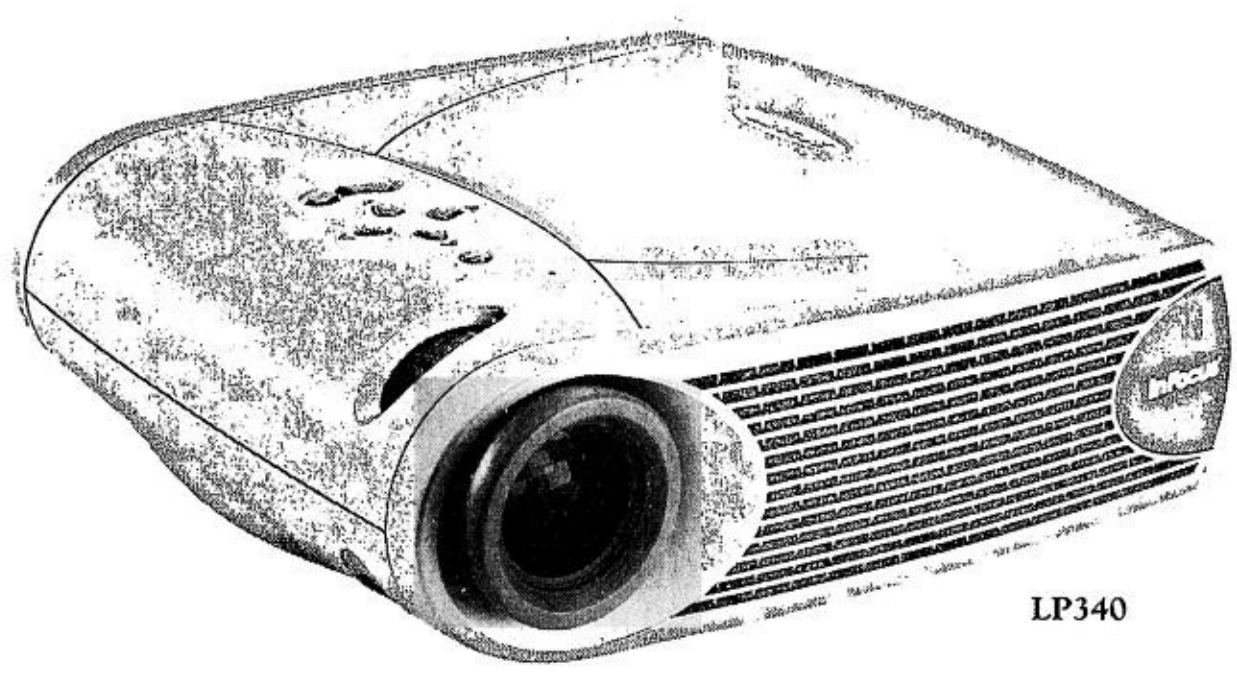
Vera Boissier, vice president at Pictet Family Office, agrees, but says that what banks lack in independence, they make up for in expertise: "It's a balance and the family have to decide what is their priority," she told a recent conference. ***Reuters***



Adiós

Sayonara

Good-bye



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Global sourcing through e-commerce

(Part I)

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Carol E. Carreon

THE POINT where sufficient momentum has been established to bring about a sudden, unstoppable, dramatic change in social, emotional, or even physical state is said to be the tipping point, according to Malcolm Gladwell, author of the international best seller, "The Tipping Point."

While the Internet has reached its tipping point in developed countries, it has not done so in the Philippines. But it will in the next few years.

Despite the Philippines' lack of critical mass, infrastructure, and Internet penetration challenges, the local business-to-business, or B2B, scene can change dramatically with e-commerce. Because it can connect everybody to everybody, everybody to every institution, every institution to all the other institutions, whether they be in the private sector or in government.

While the bulk of the hype worldwide and in the Philippines is negative today, it was not too long ago that the hype was positive and that set our industry up for what many analysts call a "trough of disillusionment."

The difference from the artificial highs of the previous years (1999-2000) to the artificial lows of today makes it feel like a huge disappointment. There has been and still is what you could call an "unbalanced hype to reality ratio."

But the reality remains that significant value is being created at a pace that is very rapid when compared to historical norms. What is true and real is that Business Internet creates higher value than business as usual.

E-business, or e-commerce, is a new phenomenon. Therefore, it becomes necessary to break free from the mental models upon which people have relied on for years for their day-to-day understanding of how people interact with each other in business.

The book, "7 Steps to Nirvana, Insights into e-Business Transformation" (Sahwney and Zabin) talks about the four goals of e-business: relationship enhancement, time reduction, cost reduction, and revenue expansion. And greater business values will be obtained as enterprises achieve one, two, three, or all four of these goals.

There are also four levels of interface in e-business: employees, partners, customers and suppliers. Again, greater business values can be attained as we reach more and more of these levels. When we reach the empowerment of larger and larger scopes of a value chain, we can imagine the benefits to an entire industry, entire country and the world.

We must broaden our scope and be dynamic about our e-business initiatives. The operative word, therefore, is *reinvent*—not just to inform, to integrate, or to automate but to reinvent ourselves and our companies.

And reinvention requires a broad scope of goals and interfaces and a different view of time as not static but dynamic.

Traditionally, the majority of business purchases in the Philippines have been treated as maverick buys—whenever someone within an organization needed to purchase something, the purchasing department would call around and canvass suppliers.

Purchases were also influenced by existing relationships that individual buyers may have had with certain vendors, but in most cases, the purchase was based on price.

As a result, few Philippine companies have had contracted pricing for indirect goods and services. Instead, each buyer relies on a set of contacts and personal relationships in order to get the items the company requires at a particular point in time. Few businesses gave much thought to the efficiencies and cost savings that could be gained by vetting vendors, aggregating demand, and establishing formal, enterprise-wide contracts for common indirect supplies.

In an Accenture report on e-commerce in the Philippines, overall B2B spending is expected to be the lowest in Asia (ex-Japan), although it is projected to grow from $558 million in 2000 to $5,582 million in 2005.

The report states that the number of small business buyers is expected to grow to 0.04 million in 2000 and to 0.37 million in 2004, while medium to large business buyers will number 0.13 million and 1.33 million for the same period.

Small and medium enterprises likewise have a good potential in the Internet economy, though this potential remains largely untapped because very few are able to access the technology, due mainly to the high set-up costs involved.

With the Internet becoming a major growth driver of economies, traditional companies are now seriously considering the use of the Internet to transform the way they conduct business.

E-Marketplaces are becoming the new business venue for buying, selling, and supporting customers, products and services. Still in their early evolutionary stages, they are today primarily focused on the matchmaking of buyers and sellers. As matchmakers, e-Marketplaces are many-to-many environments that assist buyers in reducing the costs of procurement and help suppliers in accessing new customers and improving service to existing ones.

GLOBAL/ C3

Involving the youth to get rid of corruption

By Ellen Sandig-Cain

THE COMMISSION on Higher Education (CHED) projects that about 390,307 college graduates joined the workforce last month which means a 10 percent in the number of unemployed persons already totaling some 3.7 million.

Every year there are more graduating students than job opportunities. An analysis by Calixto Chikiamco of the recently released statistics by the National Statistics and Coordination Board (NSCB) shows that more and more of the countries' job seekers are finding employment in agriculture as "unpaid" family workers, and are becoming fast-food crew, sales persons, car mechanics, house maids, and family drivers.

The culprit can be found in the discouraging investments data coming from the Board of Investments (BOI). The BOI reports that the number of investments registered from January to February this year declined by half. Employment generated by the registered companies dropped 44 percent to 3,211 workers from 5,717 workers in the same period last year.

The young generation can actually claim their future today by helping create the environment necessary for the economy to prosper and generate more employment opportunities.

Governance matters

Various studies and surveys show that the reasons why the country languishes at the bottom in the investor's preferred list of investment sites primarily include corruption and the worsening stare of public governance.

Investors and businessmen now place a very high value on good governance as the recent survey of the Social Weather Stations (SWS) indicates in the survey, businessmen bared that they are willing to pay about 2 percent of their income to fund anti-corruption initiatives, which will help cut corruption by half within 10 years. Far from being philanthropic, this initiative shows that transparency and clear-cut rules matters to business.

On the other hand, the government has avowed to stamp out corruption in the bureaucracy. However, it remains to be seen whether President Macapagal-Arroyo's continuous pledge for governance reforms will actually be translated to action.

The youth, especially the undergraduates, must take a protractive role in making sure that the rules and regulation being implemented in the country do not allow corruption to thrive. Judging from their participation in the country's past People Power revolutions, they have the potential to effect a wide-ranging improvement in the country's state of governance.

Pro-active role

A graduating business economics student and head of the University of the Philippines School of Economics Council, and active volunteer of an anti-corruption social marketing campaign called "Walang Ku-Corrupt!" Grace Vera Cruz says that by applying good governance and citizenship in the different sphere of their lives, the youth can help create a good employment environment.

The youth can exert great influence in encouraging the older generation to practice good citizenship by persuading them to pay their correct taxes and avoid acts of collusion with corrupt government officials. As friends, they play significant roles in guiding their peers to the right path as citizens. As students, they are the future leaders of the society.

The youth can also exercise their citizenship more vigorously by being active in reform initiatives. In other countries, reform initiatives have been successful because these were backed by the youth sector.

For instance, Peru's initiative to reform their tax administration system to plug long-standing leakage in tax collection during the 1990s was actively supported by the younger generation. Peru's youth carried out a fast-audit campaign, which led to the closure of large businesses found using fake official receipts. This included one of Peru's finest hotels belonging to a multinational chain of five-star hotels. The fast-audit campaign also resulted to a significant boost to Peru's tax take.

The Peruvian youth also helped in data gathering by standing watch in the offices of hard-to-tax sectors such as doctors and lawyers.

A plan to undertake a fast-audit campaign similar to Peru's initiative is being drawn out by the "Walang Ku-Corrupt!" youth volunteers. This summer, they will converge in a summer camp that will further define the course of the youth's involvement in anti-corruption initiatives.

(The author is a volunteer of the "Walang Ku-Corrupt Campaign!"—http://www.walangkucorrupt.ph)

Global sourcing . . .

From page C2

As with everything related to the Internet, e-Marketplaces will go through several key evolutionary phases and these phases will move at Internet speed. They will spawn the transformation of the e-Marketplace from a central matchmaker into a value-added service provider.

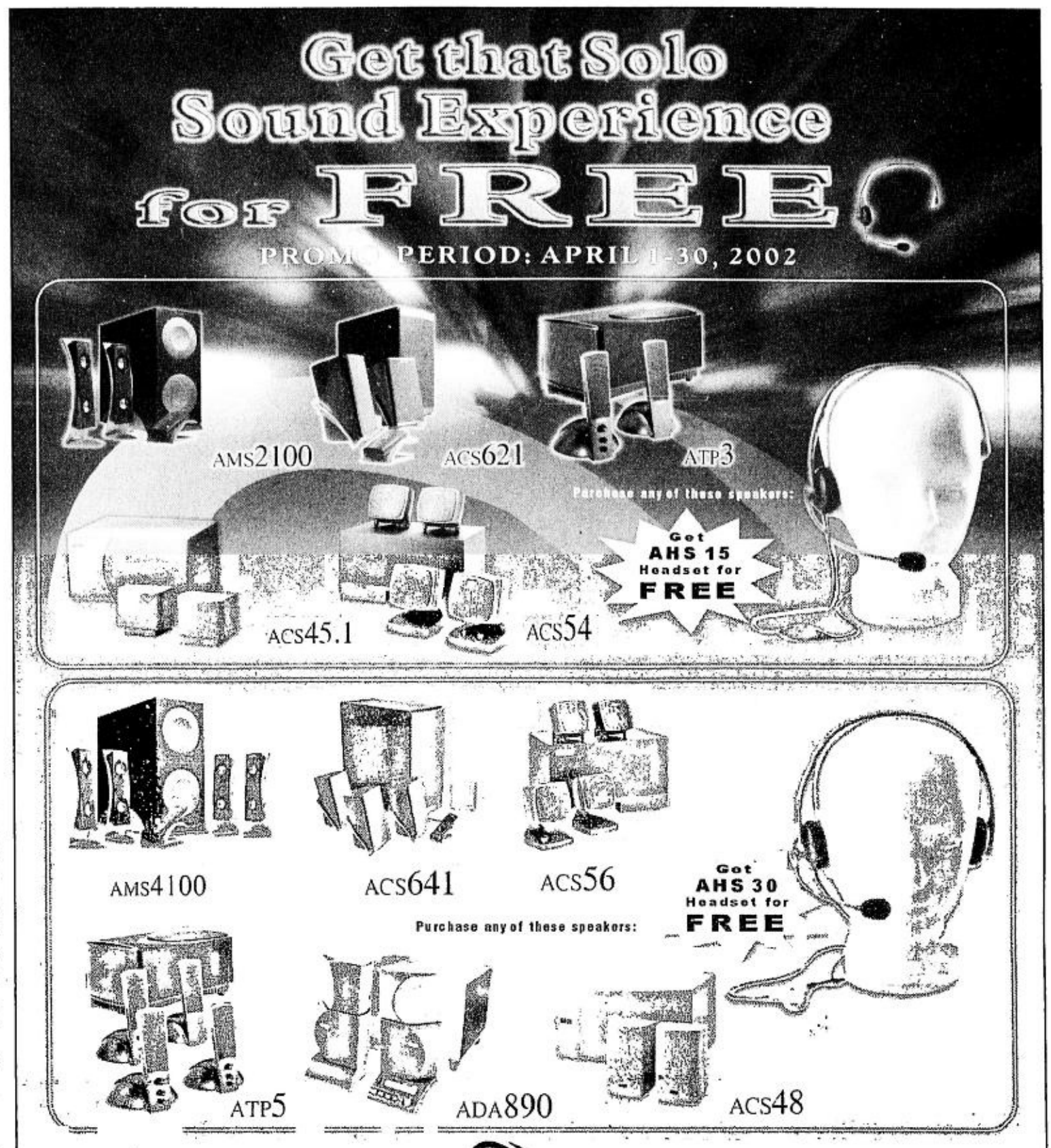
As the transactions and value-added services begin to take hold, the savvy e-Marketplaces will harness the information flow and even convert it into decision support services for their members.

Gartner, in a study on the Future of the Global Trading Network, places the role of e-Marketplaces in the context of what enterprises want. Is there a future for e-Marketplaces in facilitating B2B e-commerce? Do enterprises really see e-Marketplaces and e-procurement as a priority for investment, particularly during the current economic downturn?

Gartner believes that, particularly through the emergence of the heavy buyer participation in consortia e-Marketplaces, enterprise demand has moved the role of e-Marketplaces from that of providing simple functionality and e-procurement technology to one of providing much greater involvement within the supply chain.

To see how this works in the Philippine context, I'll provide three case studies in the continuation of this column next week.

(This article reflects the personal opinion of the author who is a member of the Management Association of the Philippines and president and CEO of Bayantrade Dotcom Inc.)



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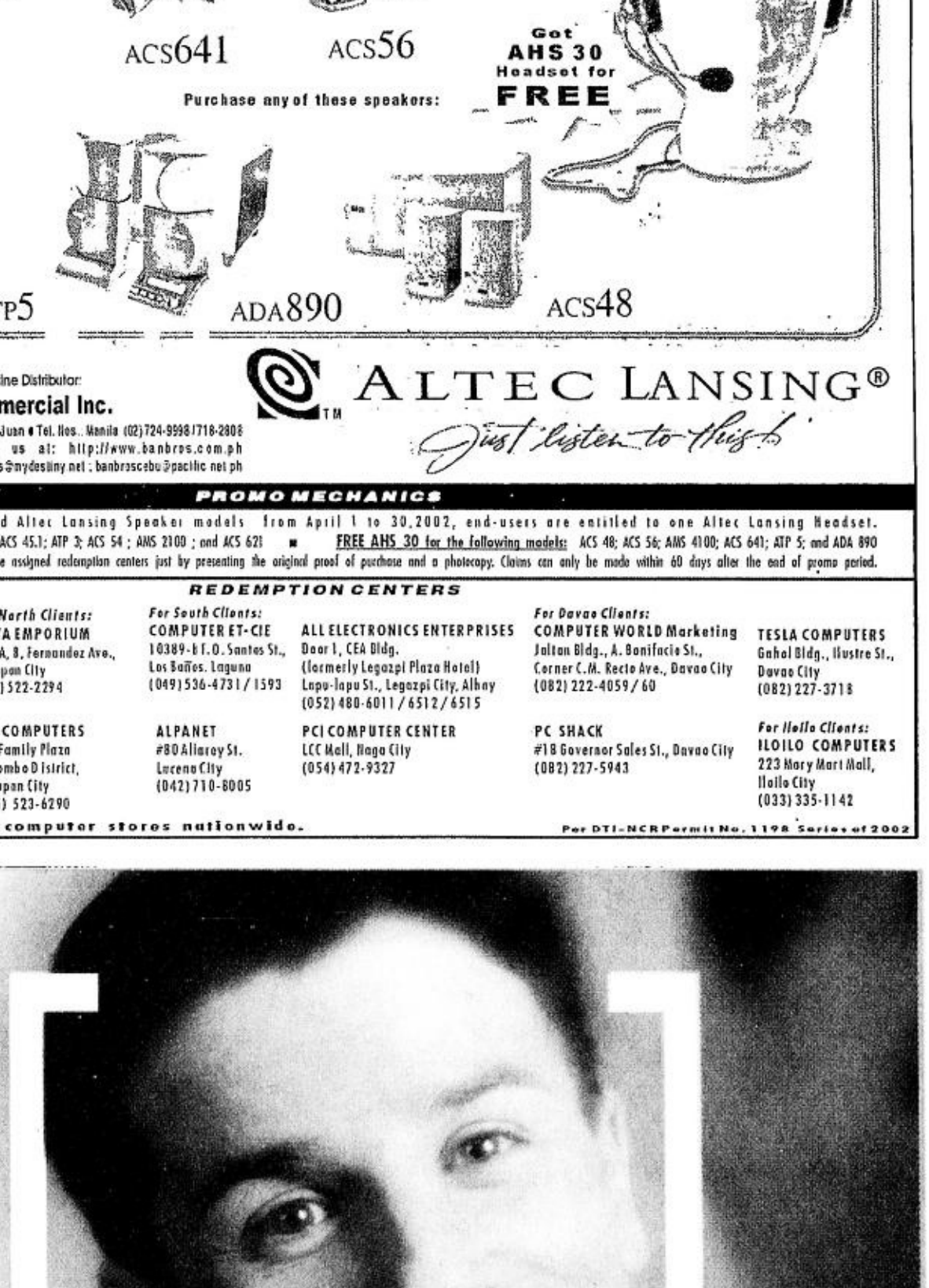

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BUSINESS Monday

MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2002

Asia defiantly embraces e-commerce

DESPITE the recent global economic downturn and still recovering from the dotcom aftermath, e-commerce continues to defy its skeptics and proves itself a potential source of opportunities with plenty to offer Asian countries, according to an Accenture study on the state of e-commerce in this region.

The study "The Future of Digital Asia," reveals that e-commerce has and will continue to provide opportunities for companies to do things better, faster, and more efficiently as customer and supplier relationships are strengthened. Seventy-one percent of the respondents said recent economic setbacks had not affected their plans to pursue e-commerce initiatives.

More than 200 board-level executives were interviewed for the study across six countries experiencing varying degrees of technological sophistication: Malaysia, Korea, China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore. "The Future of Digital Asia" is one of the first in-depth surveys of executive attitudes to e-commerce in Asia since the onset of the economic slowdown.

"Companies should seize the opportunity to define their strategies, understand the Internet and determine how it can be leveraged to deliver a unique competitive advantage. This is the ideal time to invest, build and develop new capabilities and products," said Jaime G. del Rosario, Accenture's country managing director in the Philippines.

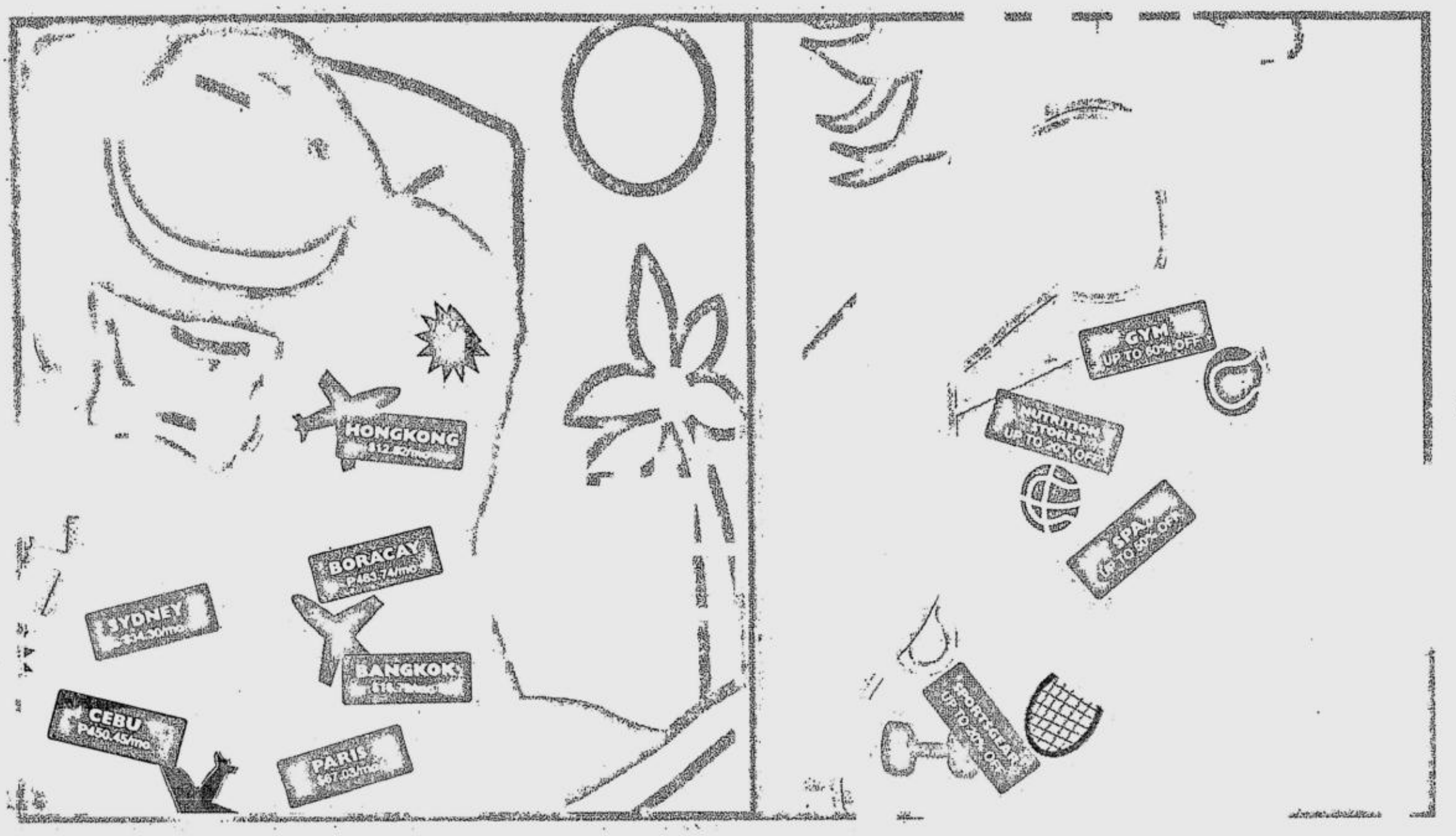
To map out the landscape, a number of factors contribute to the region's high potential for e-commerce initiatives. Firstly, the vast, yet mostly untapped markets see an unrelenting surge in Internet users for individual countries. Secondly, mobile phone usage is increasing exponentially, paving the way for cutting-edge opportunities for e-commerce; and lastly, Asia's key role as a factory of the world creases ample opportunities for the region to reap large gains resulting from the online migration of suppliers and back-end manufacturing processes.

However, e-commerce capabilities vary widely across countries and businesses. This underscores the hesitant steps taken by companies in embarking on e-commerce initiatives. While many see the value of engaging in e-commerce, most are complacent with using the Internet for customer interaction, relegating priorities on other efforts such as back-office streamlining or supply-chain management. Survey respondents added that barriers to e-commerce went beyond technological complexities to include the reluctance by management and employees to change working habits and attitudes. Another bolster to e-commerce is its expected increase in usage in back-office areas such as purchasing and logistics in the near future. Some findings further point to successful companies pursuing collaborative efforts across the supply chain to improve their effectiveness in areas such as product design, forecasting, scheduling, inventory management and purchasing.

Asia also shows remarkable potential to be a pioneer in the realm of mobile technologies. Mobile phones and wireless applications in Asia will significantly drive mobile commerce and wireless revenues in the near future as their usage surpasses that of other parts of the world.

In light of these opportunities, survey respondents are preparing themselves for greater competition with close to 50 percent of them admitting to tightening their internal processes. Along those lines, many businesses will reshape themselves to gain economies of scale while leveraging leading-edge capabilities stemming from an increased dependency on outsourcing, collaboration, and networking.

In pursuit of increased business and cost efficiencies, Asian companies will need to place greater emphasis on using e-commerce to streamline supply-chain operations and integrate internal processes in order to reinforce its competitive position as factory of the world. On the flipside, revenue generation from e-commerce initiatives remain the prize of merely 45 percent of the companies surveyed.



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LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso ❁ Subsection Editor Lito B. Zulueta

Arts/Design

SAM PENASO

Distorted figures are his self-portrait

"#1"

His expressionist works reek of the spiritual

By James Perez Ong
Contributor

SAM Penaso, 28, is a portrait of a struggling artist. He was orphaned in college and now lives alone in a room near Welcome Rotonda, which also serves as his studio.

Before this, he was staying in another room in a squatter's area in Quezon City where, while he painted at night, in the background he'd hear endless footsteps going toward another room upstairs. The boarder, apparently, did brisk business dealing drugs.

When he was keeping an odd job in Makati, he would take the PNR—it was hot and cramped but a lot cheaper than the bus or the jeepney. He knows the value of money, and only touches what he has won in art awards for expenses directly related to his painting—and that includes his current P1,200 monthly rent.

When he has to eat, he walks to the house of an uncle nearby so he could get a free meal. Nothing fancy, fried fish or vegetables, enough to fill a hungry stomach.

Still, he hardly leads a bohemian life. He doesn't smoke. He doesn't drink. His only vice is basketball and movies.

On the day we met him, at a café in Glorietta, he wasn't wearing tattered jeans or a paint-splattered shirt commonly associated with artists. His hair was neatly combed with his hands, his fingernails were clean, and he hardly ordered anything. He wore chinos and a conservative short-sleeved polo shirt.

DISTORTED/ p.D6

"#12"

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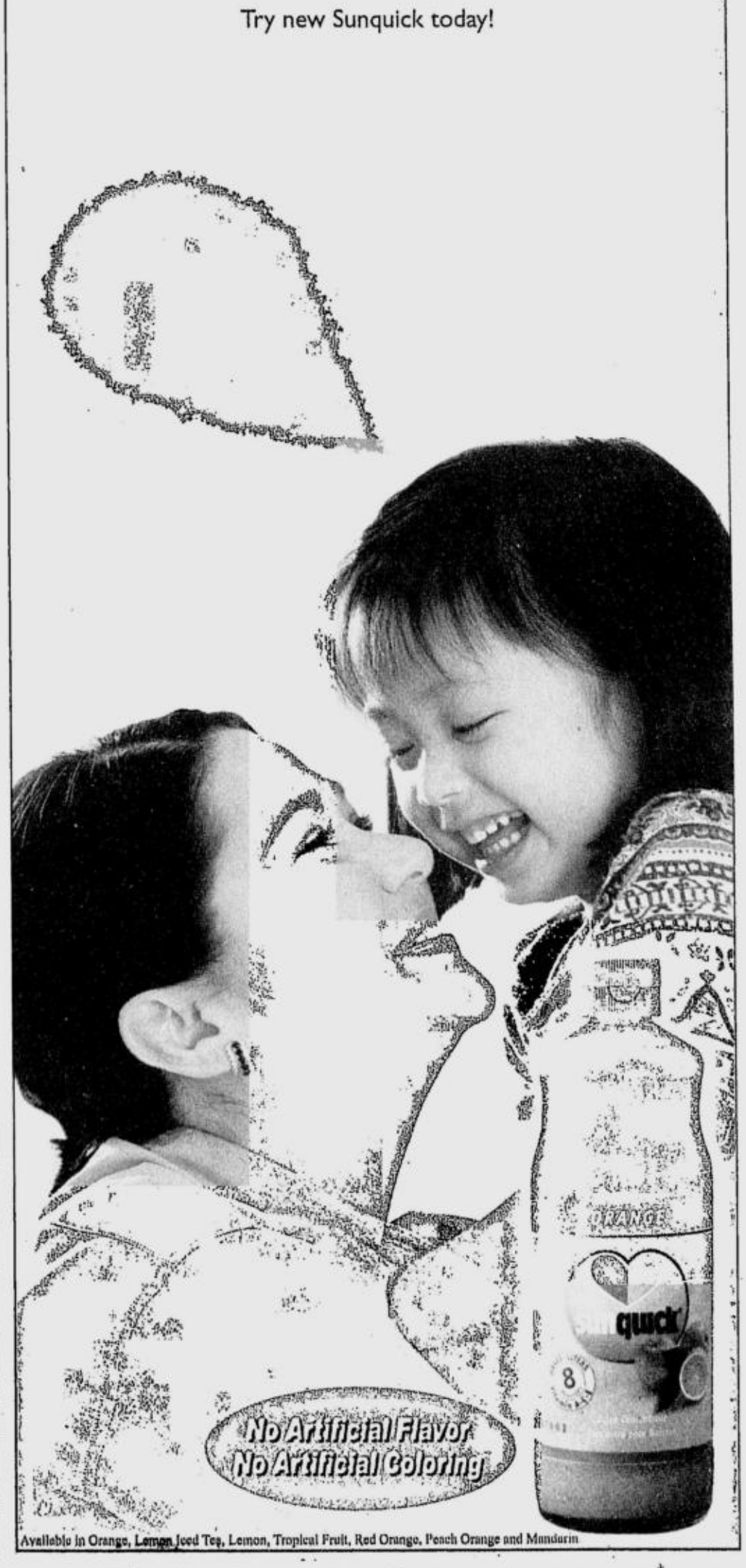

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Strauss Society makes beautiful diplomatic music

WITH THE COOPERATION of Austrian Ambassador **Christian Krepela** and the Austrian Embassy, the Johann Strauss New Year's gala concert was held at the Mandarin Oriental ballroom. Kudos to **Helen Ong** and **Fortune Ledesma** who chaired the committee that organized the event, and to hotel general manager **Helmut Gaisberger**, **Charisse Chuidian**, and **Welgang Harwalik** of the Austrain Trade Commission, and **Cez Manalo** of the Manila Symphony Orchestra II that performed under the baton of resident conductor **Arturo Molina** and guest Austrian conductor **Ernest Hoetzl**. A special treat was **Nene Villanueva**'s wonderful performance of Philippine music.

It was a lovely evening with the Johann Strauss Society raising funds for talented members of the MSO for overseas training. The society's founder and president, **Kay Siazon**, flew in from Japan with Ambassador **Domingo Siazon**. Among the envoys were Austrian Ambassador Christian Krepela and wife **Irmgard**, Russian Ambassador and Mme. **Anatoli Khmelnitski**, Portuguese Ambassador **Joao Caetano de Silva** and his wife **Ulrike**, the elegant **Kessara Arnold**, wife of Dutch Ambassador **Theo Arnold**, Swiss Ambassador and Mme. **Werner Baumann**, Singaporean Ambassador **Jacky Foo** and Dr. **Su Yumian**. Also there were Chilean Ambassador **Carmen Lynam** and Turkish Ambassador **Veka Inal**, whose tour of duty, we are sad to report, is nearly over. Other luminaries were **Chito Madrigal Collantes**, adviser to the group, the inimitable **Imelda Cojuangco**, **Pitoy Moreno**, **Marietta Santos**, **Offie Recto**, **Mundy Feliciano**, **Letty Syquia**, **Evie Costa**, **Mellie Ablaza** with husband **Louie**, **Thelma Gana**, **Alice** and **Miguel Guerrero**, **Glenn Gale** and **Joan Hubbard** (how wonderful to see her again!), who was visiting and staying with good friend **Paz Yuchengco**.

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

Amiga

RUSSIAN envoy Anatoli Khmelnitski and Domingo Siazon

BELGIAN Ambassador and Mme. Ronald von Remoortele

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SINGAPORE Ambassador and Mme. Jacky Foo

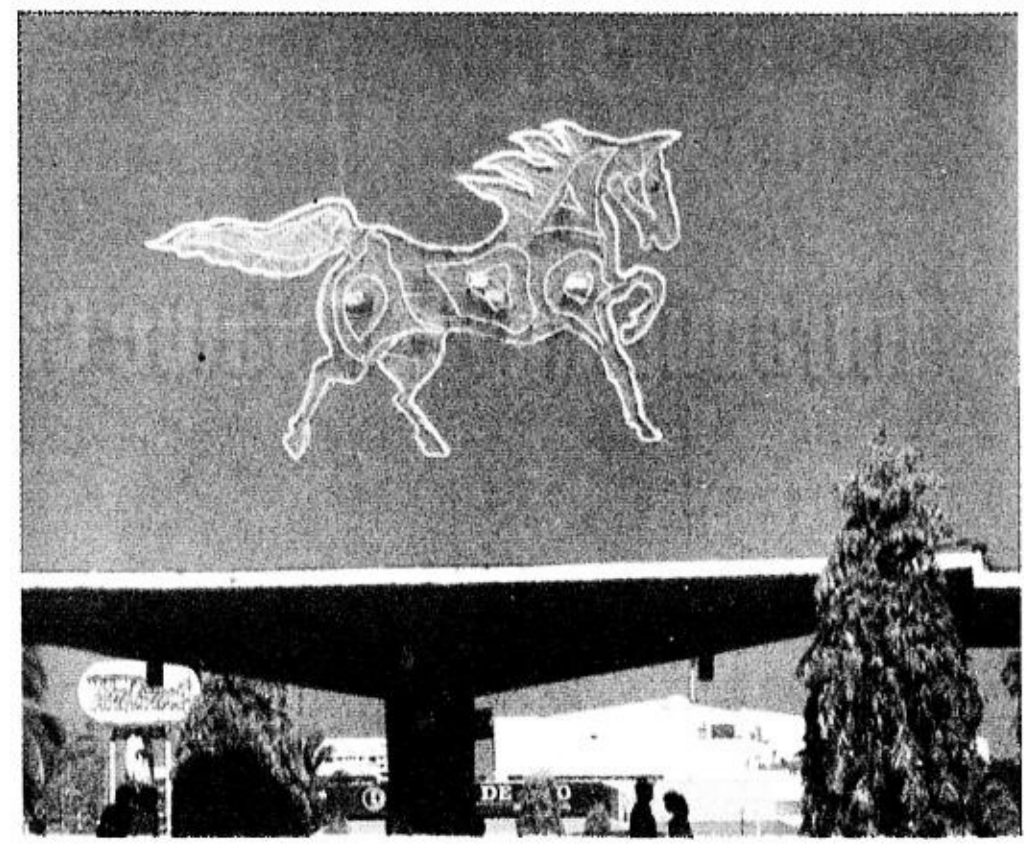
JOAN Hubbard, Thelma Gana, Paz Yuchengco

Chabet at Finale and West, Salazar at Alliance Francaise

VISUAL ARTS

ROBERTO Chabet presents "Observatory," a two-part, two-gallery exhibition at Finale Art Gallery and West Gallery April 4-16. Part I, "Observatory: Constellation" at Finale, is a wall installation that deploys in a grid pattern 72 clipboards on six large abutting black panels. Each clipboard carries a sheet of exposed, graying photo paper Braille-embossed with the name of a constellation. Shedding light on the work's dark expanse is a neon-lit aluminum cane. Part II, "Observatory: Archipelago" at West, consists of a wall-wide black painting where a U-shaped arrangement of raw wood planks suggests a window view. Fronting this on the floor is a small dugout boat resting on a bed of 80 individually boxed-framed pencil drawings on black paper of the map of the Philippines drawn from memory by grade school children. The exhibit will open on April 4 at Finale and West at the 4/L SM Megamall.

SHERWIN C. Tan's "Shekinah" is an exhibit of ceramic masks at the Crucible (4/L SM Megamall). Call 635-6061.



THIS giant horse sculpture by Roberto Saenz hangs under the huge Greenhills Shopping Center signage. The 1-ton sculpture was fabricated from steel and welded mesh, topped off with approximately 400 ft of neon tubing. The "day effect" is of a steel-and-glass sculpture painted in gold and white. The "night effect" is magical. The tubes are layered to a 32" depth so that the horse becomes three-dimensional.

SALAZAR AT ALLIANCE FRANCAISE. Ronald Salazar, first place winner in sculpture at the 54th annual Art Association of the Philippines contest, will mount his first sculpture exhibit. Broken bottles, steel and body fillers characterize Salazar's style. Having previously expressed his art through soft pastel, watercolor and oil paintings, Salazar, who trained at the UST College of Fine Arts and Design, says this new medium requires a lot of effort, patience and discipline. The exhibit will open on April 8 at the Alliance Francaise de Manille Totalfinaelf Gallery, 209 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air II, Makati City and will run until April 30. Call 895-7585/7441.

BAMBAO AT VARGAS MUSEUM. Nicolette Soriano Bambao will hold her first one-woman show of 30 drawings and paintings, both old and new, April 3 to May 8, at the J. Vargas Museum, Diliman, QC. Call 928-1927 or 920-5301 local 7407.

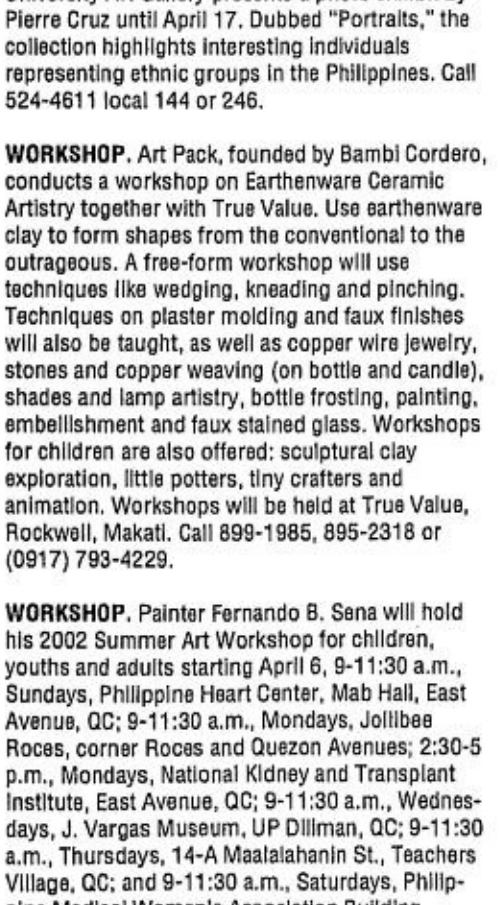
BORRAS AT THE ALCOVE GALLERY. The Alcove Photo Gallery (Filipinas Heritage Library, Makati Avenue, Makati City) features photographer Alan Borras. "Two Days in Kyoto" depicts Japanese culture and tradition as seen in people, places and religion. Until April 27. Call 892-1801.

GROUP EXHIBIT AT UP VARGAS MUSEUM. The UP Vargas Museum presents "Endramada," a traveling exhibit of recent artworks by 13 Angono artists: Allan Alcantara, Riovic Acallar, Aaron Bautista, Michael de Guzman, Michael Dujua, Carlos Francisco II, Norberto Lugtu, Zarah Jane Miranda-Merced, Katrina Miranda, Paul Greco Miranda, Isidro Santos, Emerson Salmorin and Wire Rommel Tuazon. Call 928-1927 or 920-5301 local 7407.

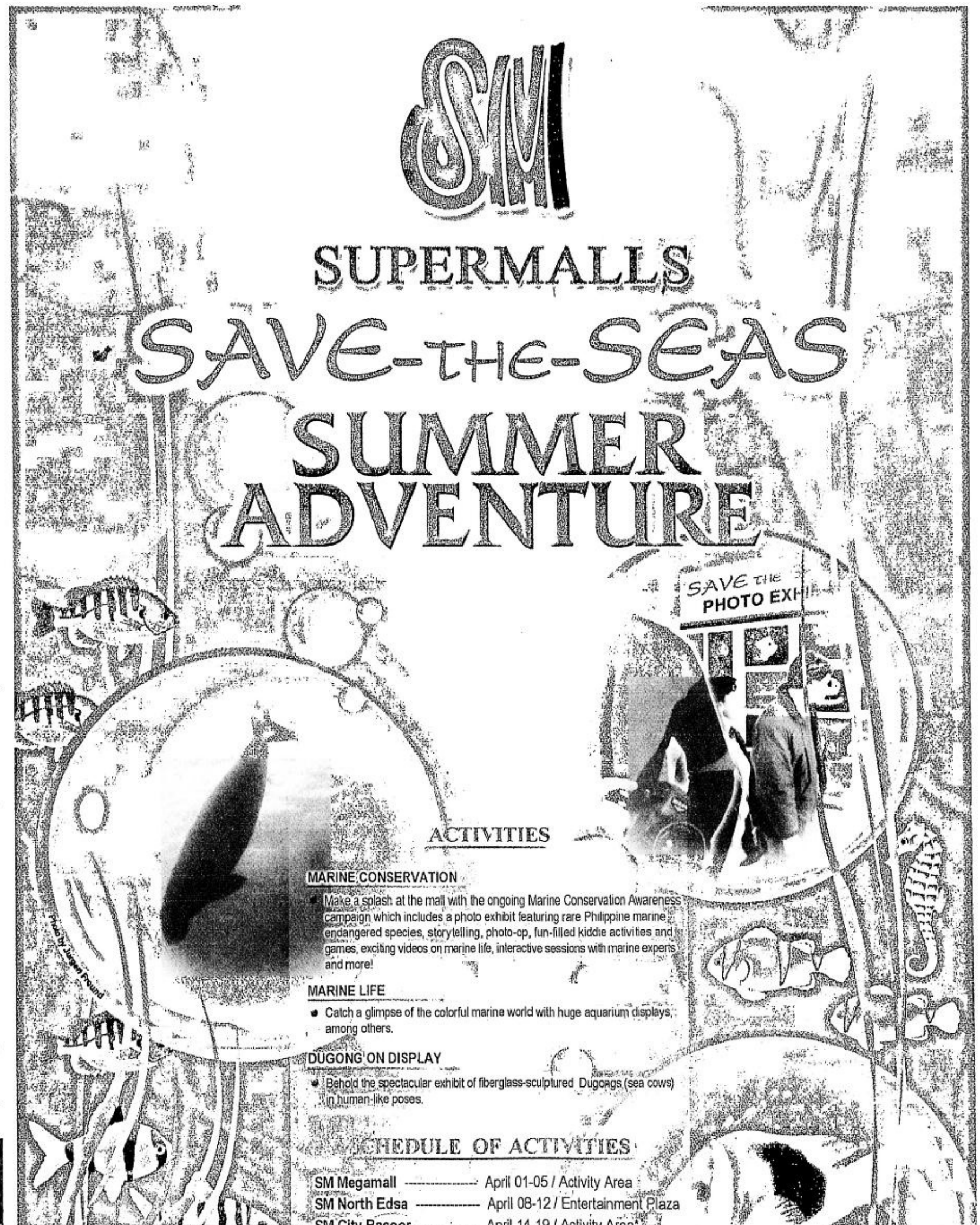
PHOTO EXHIBIT AT DLSU. The De la Salle University Art Gallery presents a photo exhibit by Pierre Cruz until April 17. Dubbed "Portraits," the collection highlights interesting individuals representing ethnic groups in the Philippines. Call 524-4611 local 144 or 246.

WORKSHOP. Art Pack, founded by Bambi Cordero, conducts a workshop on Earthenware Ceramic Artistry together with True Value. Use earthenware clay to form shapes from the conventional to the outrageous. A free-form workshop will use techniques like wedging, kneading and pinching. Techniques on plaster molding and faux finishes will also be taught, as well as copper wire jewelry, stones and copper weaving (on bottle and candle), shades and lamp artistry, bottle frosting, painting, embellishment and faux stained glass. Workshops for children are also offered: sculptural clay exploration, little potters, tiny crafters and animation. Workshops will be held at True Value, Rockwell, Makati. Call 899-1985, 895-2318 or (0917) 793-4229.

WORKSHOP. Painter Fernando B. Sena will hold his 2002 Summer Art Workshop for children, youths and adults starting April 6, 9-11:30 a.m., Sundays, Philippine Heart Center, Mab Hall, East Avenue, QC; 9-11:30 a.m., Mondays, Jollibee Roces, corner Roces and Quezon Avenues; 2:30-5 p.m., Mondays, National Kidney and Transplant Institute, East Avenue, QC; 9-11:30 a.m., Wednesdays, J. Vargas Museum, UP Diliman, QC; 9-11:30 a.m., Thursdays, 14-A Maalalahanin St., Teachers Village, QC; and 9-11:30 a.m., Saturdays, Philippine Medical Women's Association Building, corner V. Luna Road and Malakas Street. Call 925-8801 or 924-6425.



PAINTER George Sison-Tagle paints "Gloria" at the Malvarosa farm of Justice Secretary Hernando Perez in Batangas. Tagle held recently his exhibit, "Gloria Atbp," at the Subic Bay Yacht Club.



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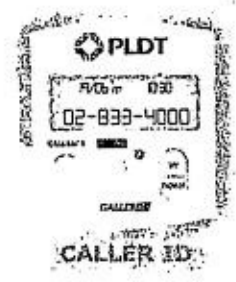

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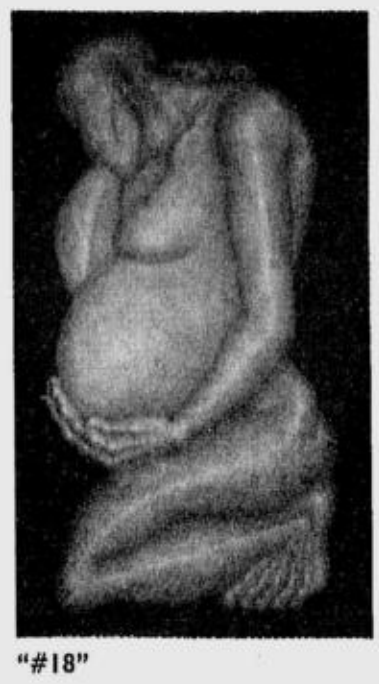


"#18"

Distorted figures are his self-portrait

From page D1

Ask him and he'll tell you, respectfully, that he believes in God, prays and regularly goes to Mass.

Drawing at a young age

Penaso's religiosity can be traced to his childhood in Bohol province, which boasts of the highest number of Catholic churches in the country. He was raised in a remote town called Gindulman, an only son of a fisherman and a mother who tended a *sari-sari* store.

He remembers getting scolded by his mother every time he'd take out the foil in cigarette packs before they got sold, because he used them as drawing paper. He knew at a young age that what he wanted was to draw.

When he finished high school, he looked forward to an aunt's promise to send him to college. But that didn't come through.

While his classmates went to Tagbilaran, Cebu or Manila to study, Penaso spent his first year out of high school raising money by catching and selling fish, and even signing up in a town effort to construct a sea wall.

He wrote an uncle in Manila about his desire to study. Despite the uncle's discouragements, he spent his year's earnings on a boat ride to Manila. Once here, his uncle could refuse him no longer.

Today, that uncle, who also has a bit of an artist in him, painting movie billboards, is one of his constant supporters. He gave Penaso his first job, designing patterns for *tsinelas*, which he kept while studying for a fine arts degree at the Technological University of the Philippines.

In his last year in college, Sam's mother died. He asked his professors for permission to go home to Bohol and everyone said yes except for one, who eventually flunked him. He had to extend for another semester.

His father died shortly after his mother, but this time, with no money, Penaso stayed in Manila and instead painted a tribute to his parents, "Steel Life," which won third prize in the Metrobank painting competition last year.

The work in watercolor is a realist depiction of a *sari-sari* store, with a locked-up steel gate in the foreground.

"I thought I would make that drawing because, first, it is so much a part of Filipino culture, and also because it reminds me of my life in Bohol and my parents," he explains in Filipino.

From realist to expressionist

In "Hubog," his first solo exhibition in Red Dot Gallery this weekend, Penaso shuns realism for expressionism. He uses acrylic on all 13 works, which took three months to complete, and draws

DISTORTED/ p.D7

Sacred doors of ancient memory

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

IN A COUNTRY where ethnic art is relegated to the oddities of indigenous and regional cultures, rare indeed is the artist who perseveres and continues to extol the life and lore of his people in his oeuvre.

But to John Frank Sabado, 33, a native of Mankayan, Benguet, no compromises must be made of art that draws inspiration from a protean source, a virtual mirror of his ancestral world, the world of the Cordillera's past made accessible to him through dreams and the wellspring of ancestral memory.

In his fourth solo exhibit at the Hiraya, the self-taught artist lives up to the proud legacy of his forebears among the Mankayan folk in Cordillera's Benguet province. Calling the collection of mixed media works (six paintings and four finely crafted room dividers) "Pathways," Sabado reveals his restless creative spirit in other ways, materials and areas of expression.

From his explorations of sacred symbols and mystical shapes in "Archetypes," shown in the same venue two years ago, the artist has wisely transformed himself in this new blending, as it were, the indigenous with the contemporary, the material with the spiritual and, we may hazard to add, the personal with the ecumenical, without losing his artistic integrity.

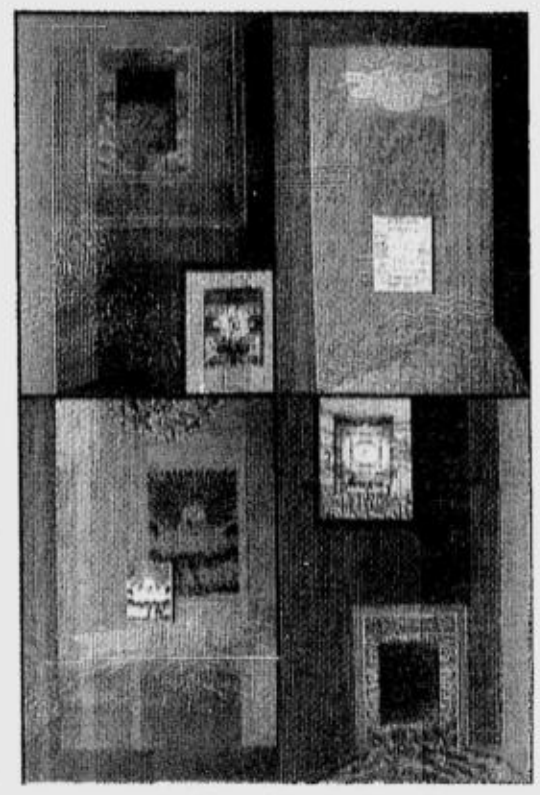
The four-part mural, "Chayan" (the translation of "Pathways" in his native dialect) shows familiar iconographic elements of his past work as represented by the four panels, symbolizing the four quarters that nourished the *patpattay* tree of the olden days.

Here, the dominant image is that of the thread lines rimming across the panels, creating a web of lambent textural effects on the works. The central image of his previous works has been reproduced in miniature format, here serving as an umbilical cord to connect past and present.

Steeped in the lore and culture of the Cordillera folk, Sabado has looked at his art as reflective of his people's beliefs and practices. His art shows the integral role of the highland environment in shaping the people's lifeways.

In "Garden of Life," we see his highly meticulous pointilist approach rendered in pen and ink that forms into a scared hoop which, if unbroken, will allow life to flourish.

In "Soul Purifier," we see the dark silhouette



"CHAYAN (Pathways)," mixed media

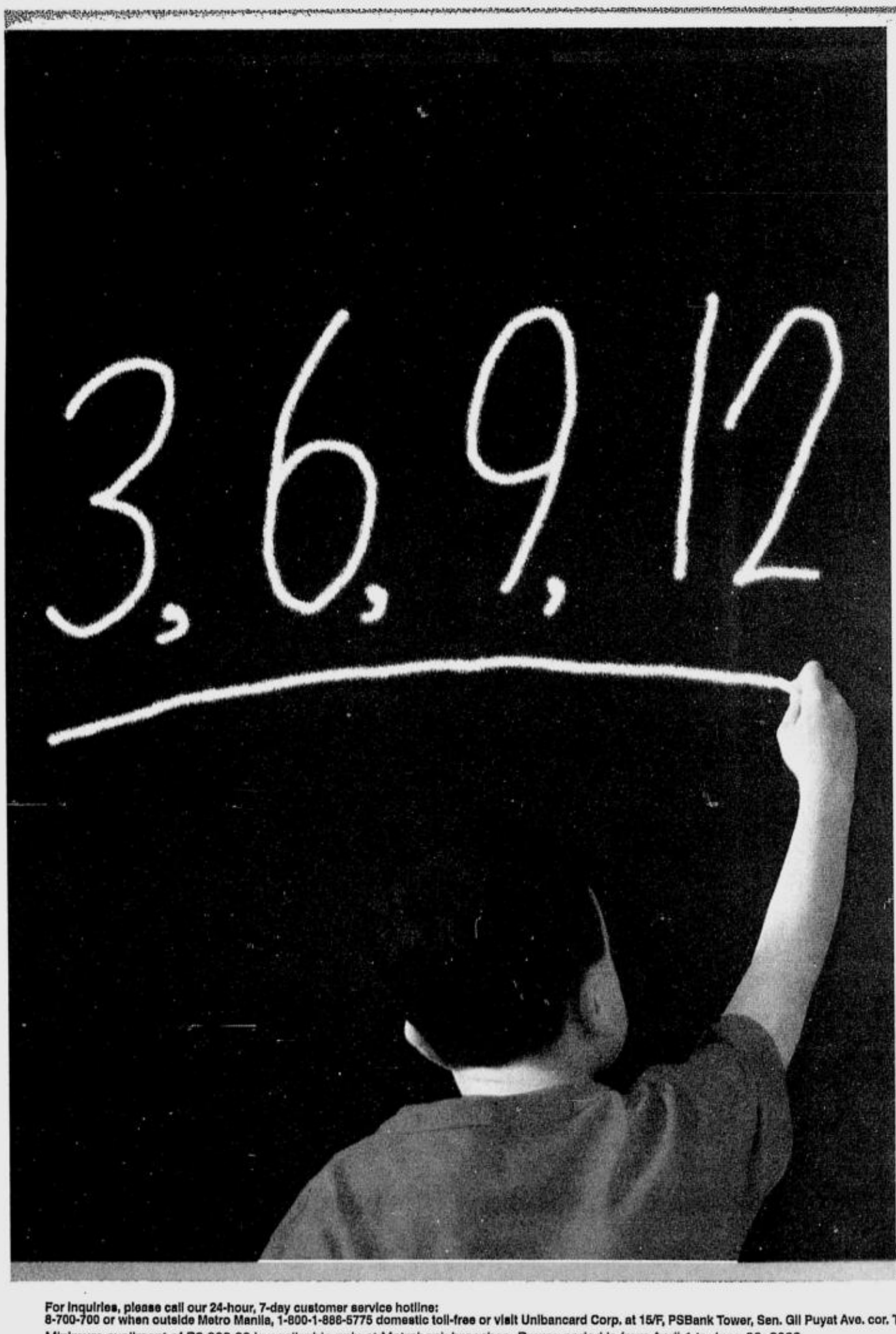
of a human figure framed against a motley mix of indigenous cloth and other appurtenances of Cordillera life fastidiously incorporated into the design.

The most arresting piece is "Patpattayan (Sacred Tree)," where the artist has reduced the image to the barest essentials: a tree literally springing to life from its roots to its sturdy trunk and billowing branches. For a needed mystical touch, Sabado has added a virtual light-and-shadow show that seems to emanate from the fiery energy of the subject.

The quartet of room dividers that occupies the gallery's center stage is likewise a tribute to the exemplary craftsmanship of his people: the crafting of economies that sustain their own lives, such as weaving, sculpture, jewelry-making, the like. It also serves a purpose more functional than decorative since the pieces are closer to installation, with 3D objects conveniently hung or embedded in the pieces.

In "Voodoo Child," a two-faced *bulol* is the central image, one side wittily wearing an out-

SACRED/ p.D7



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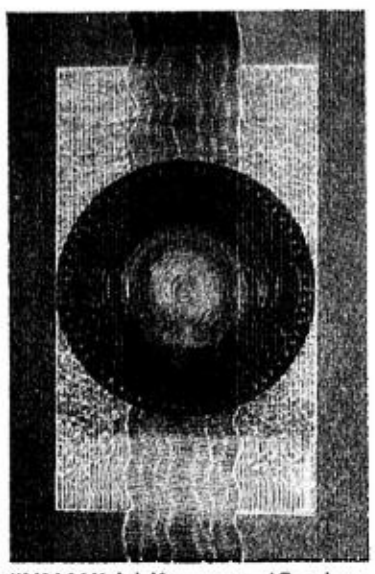
Sacred doors . . .



"UMAHI Iti Kataguan (Garden of Life)," mixed media

From page D6

size male sex organ.

In "Warrior's Charm," the artist has embedded talismanic objects, evoking their supernatural power. The most intriguing piece is "Dream Catcher," where the divider doubles as headboard, with its weblike thread that serves a dreamy nocturnal purpose.

Finally, one must note the gently healing touch of Sabado's art cast on the viewer. This is, of course, expected in the wellspring of artistic inspiration that has elevated Sabado's art, which reaches deep into the self but also leads to a more enlightened view of the outside.

E-mail the author at gdormiendo @yahoo.com

Distorted figures . . .

From page D6

gloomy nude images of a solitary human figure, all bald, in convoluted shapes only a well-practiced yogi could muster.

The style is reminiscent of the works of British artist Francis Bacon and, locally, Grupong Salingpusa, whose members Penaso looks up to.

He says he has found his style in realism, but distinguishes his works by the color he uses—a reddish hue in "Hubog." His brush strokes are refined by putting another layer of paint and then scratching through it to reveal the color beneath.

In "Hubog," Penaso says he consciously used just one figure—a representation of himself and an expression of the loneliness and pain inside him.

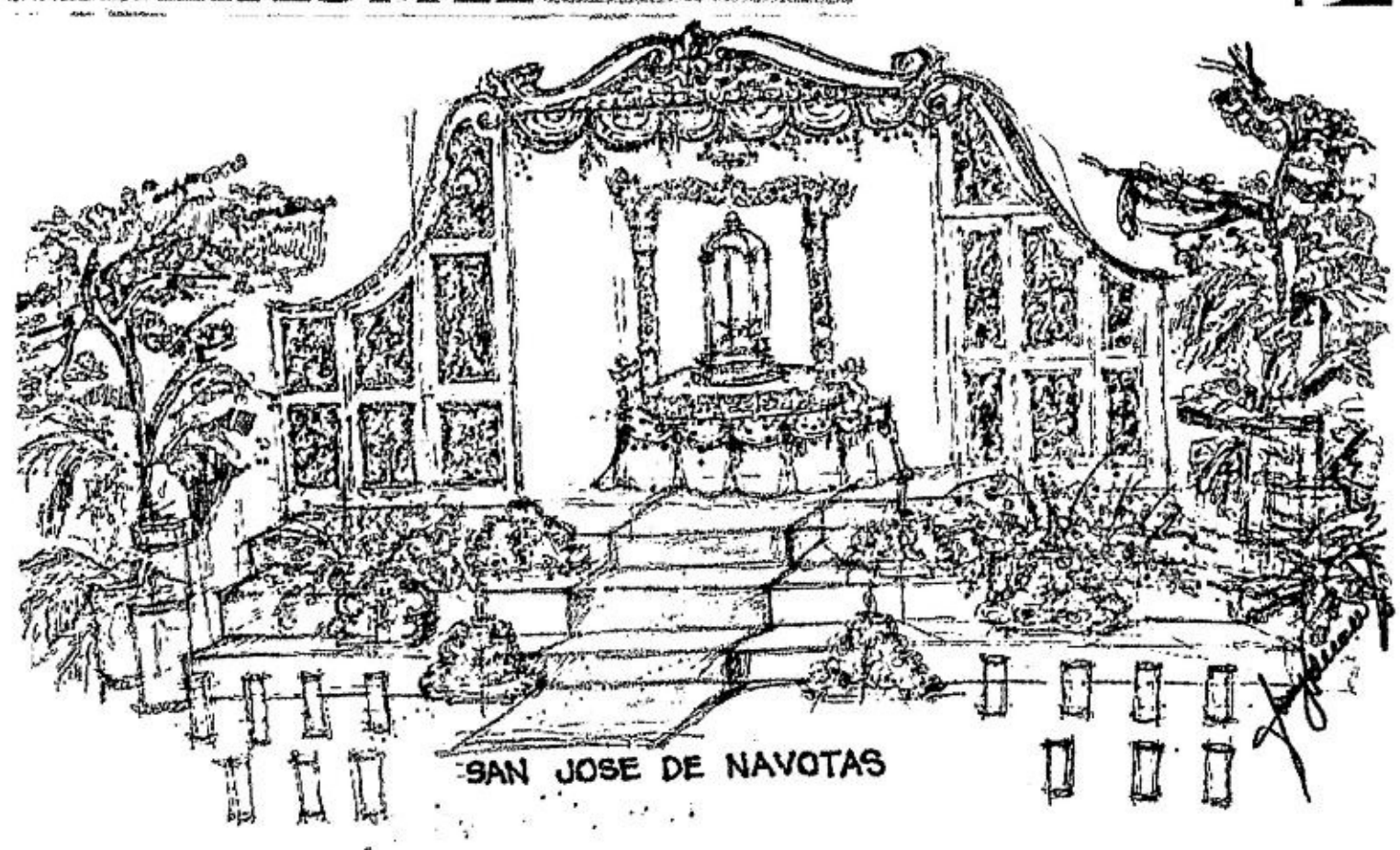
"Sometimes, when I am alone, I think of the difficulties I have gone through... The reason all the figures are nude is because when you are alone, you really feel naked and you can't hide the pain you feel inside."

All 13 pieces in this exhibit are untitled. And that works well. In the same way that silent movies are able to express a broad range of emotions without sound, Penaso's powerful and haunting images succeed in conveying the artist's innermost feelings without the use of a literary device.

"Hubog," brought in part by Metrobank Foundation Inc. and The Artery, opens on April 6, 3 p.m., at Red Dot Gallery (100 Perea St., near corner of De la Rosa St., Legaspi Village, Makati (tel. 816-2877). It runs through April 25.

Free art classes at National Museum

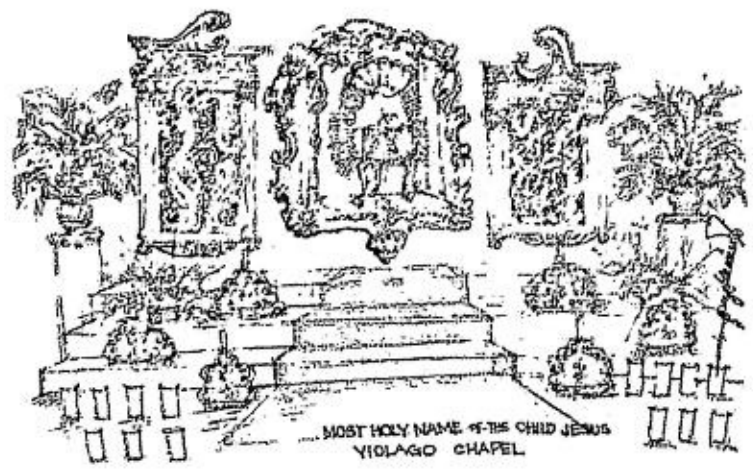
THE ARTS Division of the National Museum will hold free art classes April 3-30 at the NM main building (Old Congress), Padre Burgos Street, Manila. Call 527-1215 or fax 527-0306.



Joyful altars of repose

NOTED interior designer and furniture manufacturer Tony Adriano designed the "altar of repose" for Holy Week of the Nuestra Señora de Guia Parish in Ermita, Most Holy Name of the Child Jesus Chapel in Violago Compound, and the San Jose de Navotas Parish. Traditionally, the altar of repose signifies a burial place where the sorrow of Christ's death is given emphasis. Silence and deep reverence are implied in the overall design. Not so in this year's designs. Adriano opted to magnify the joy and gladness of the coming Easter morning: the day of Christ's Resurrection.

Also included was the theme "Christ Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow."



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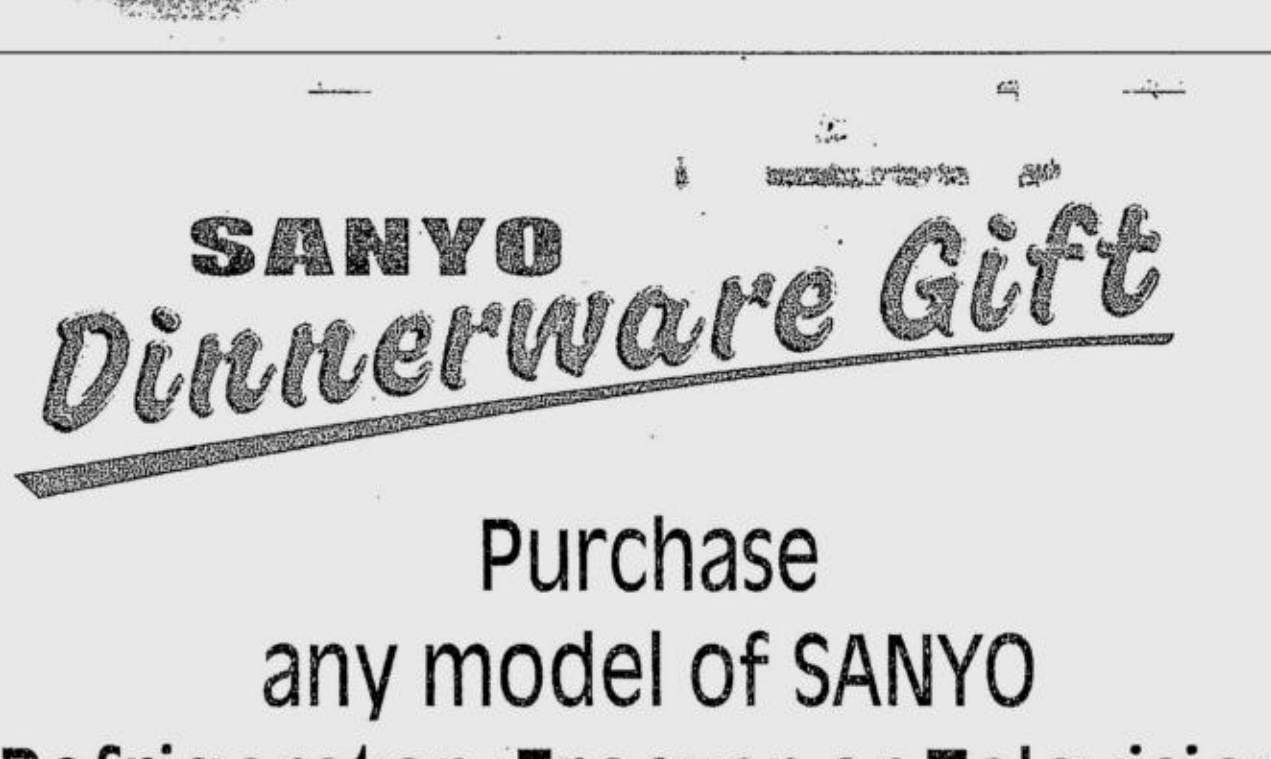

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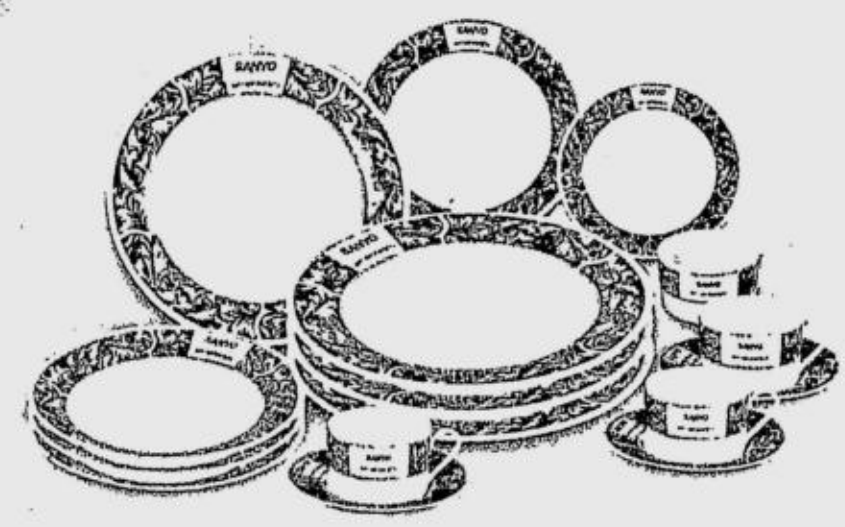

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LIFESTYLE

It's Design

E1

Agony and redemption in the arts

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

WHEN you skim the papers and review the headlines, you will think everything is hopeless about this country. But as you hear about Filipino artists making extraordinary impression abroad, and new talents proving with every performance that they are just as good as their predecessors, you begin to count your country's blessings, and realize that quality of life is not so much about acquiring cars and condominiums but enjoying the fruits—not the bane—of civilization.

AGONY/ p.E2

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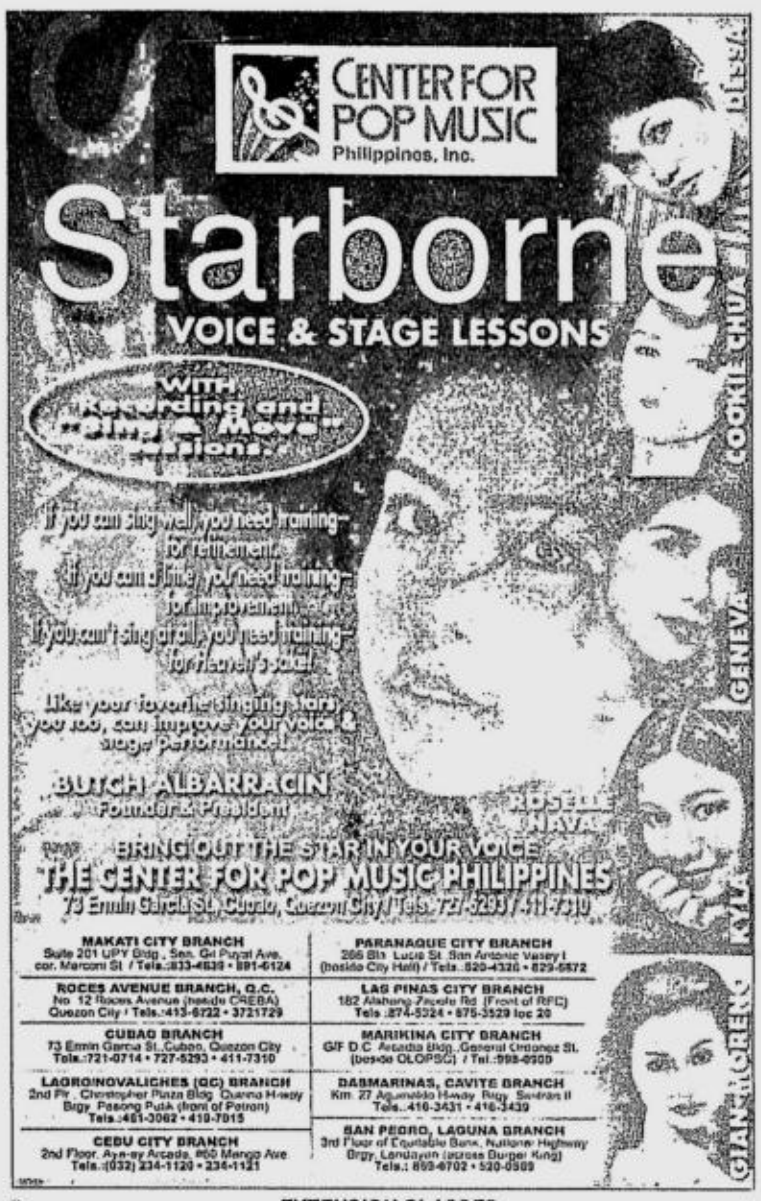

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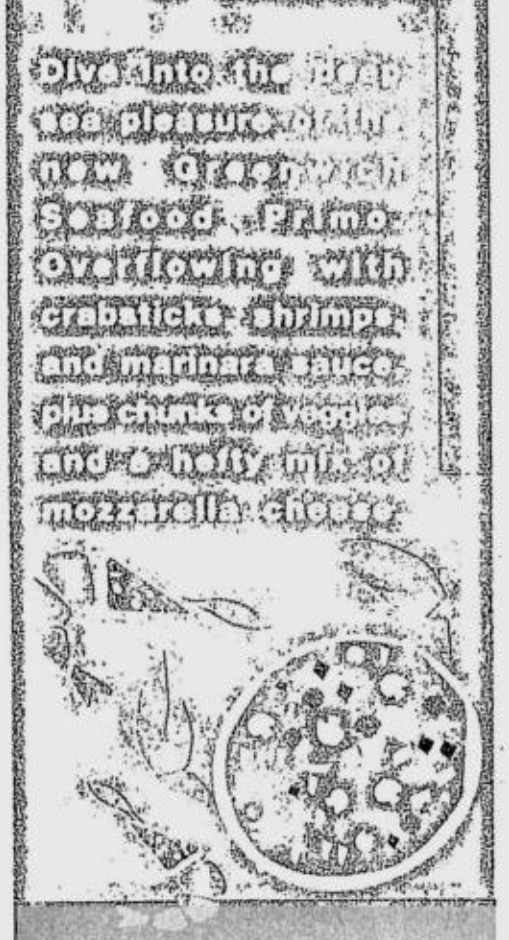

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Inang's Say at 100

By Mime H. Carandang

Take heed from a 100-year-old woman!

It was a grand, grand, grand birthday bash! Why grand? Simply because a lady in red silk passed a century mark! A celebration of 100 years of longevity and fruitfulness with her cherished loved ones last March 13, 2002. Reeling off, we took a spotlight on prim and proper Inang Segunda Ponio Fajardo. Lo and behold, we were all bedazzled. Inang could still walk gracefully with an aid of a crutch. She could still listen to the tunes of classical music without the hearing aid. She could enjoy eating healthy foods on her own. She could still crack jokes and strike up a conversation. Inang simply exuded a joyful countenance. What an electrifying ambience to feel and witness under our nose!

Would you believe that Inang's mother died at the age of 112? And her grandmother passed away at age 115? Ladies and gentlemen, what could be her blissful secrets? Listen up! This is worth a hundred-year-tuition fee that you can learn and absorb in just one page.

She was born on April 1, 1902 in Guagua, Pampanga. A diligent farmer who would wake up at the crack of dawn to roll up her sleeves and plow the rice fields. Worn to a frazzle, she would go home late at night in order to fend for her nine children. Her husband had to stay home sacrificially due to incessant migraine.

Brushing up on what some daughters have said about their mom:

"Despite our poverty, Inang strove hard to finance my studies. I was 20 years old when I enrolled as freshman in high school. I never felt intimidated by my age when asked by my younger classmates. She encouraged me to go on to study nursing. She borrowed money and honestly paid them in return. After long, grueling years, I was the first nurse to pass the board exam in our hometown."

Couching, a daughter

"Inang has been generous to the needy. No visitor would leave the house empty-handed. As I was about to cook just enough for our meal, Inang would ask me to spare some cups of rice for the neighbor in need. I would even bargain and cry while obeying her. Her golden heart has infectiously led me to follow in her footsteps. I knew I was loved by her. By the way, our parents shaped our lives through rigorous discipline. An organized person, she would delegate household chores among the siblings. She enjoyed cooking for us. She loved our father. I never heard them quarrel in front of us. Any disagreements would be secretly dealt with within the confines of their bedroom."

Erlinda, a daughter

"Inang and her brother took us in and cared for my brothers and sisters when my father died. I was five years old then."

Azon, a niece

Inang's 7 key lessons for young people:

- Eat nutritious foods.
- Never harbor bitterness. Learn to forgive.
- Work diligently.
- Love God and pray.
- Love your parents and your kith and kin.
- Keep yourself beautiful and focus on the bright side of life.
- Create an atmosphere of joy.

Hats off to you, Prof. Inang!

"Life is short, and it's up to you to make it sweet." Sarah 'Sadie' Delaney, died at the age of 109. (1890-1999)

PASIG City Vice Mayor Lorna A. Bernardo (center) with festival artists, pianist Jonathan Arevalo Coo, flutist GJ herman Gomez and pianist Oliver Salonga

Agony and redemption . . .

From page E1

The agony of the Filipino artists is that they are likely to be ignored in their own country. But they make good abroad and come back as international celebrities commanding higher fees than most of their colleagues in their homeland.

But certainly there is more to the arts than just winning medals and joining the roster of the world's most celebrated artists. Those who chose to stay and teach new talents are heroes of the arts even if they don't command fantastic fees on the concert stage.

The noble side of pianists Benjamin Tupaz, Rosario Picazo, Emilio del Rosario and Reynaldo Reyes is not the laurels they gained abroad but the number of quality pupils they taught and honed.

Certainly I have no admiration for artists who spend the twilight of their careers making "contemporary music" on the mahjong table. The nobility of the true artist is in the spirit of sharing, and those who have done their job need not worry about not accumulating "rave reviews" from newspapers all over the world.

The redemption of the artists who don't have publicity machines is when their prodigies make good and prove that music is not just about getting press notices, but more about sharing the music with those who don't have the means.

On this note, I say "Happy Easter" to those who have gone through the agony of becoming exemplary artists on their own terms, and not on the terms of image-makers.

* * *

The preview concert of the First Pasig Summer Music Festival at the Pasig Museum last week drew thunderous applause from Pasigueños led by Vice Mayor Lorna A. Bernardo, who heads the City Cultural Affairs and Tourism Council, and Chitoy Zapata, president of the Kalipunan ng Sining at Kultura sa Pasig.

The concert also uncovered the excellent acoustics of the museum, which was once an old Concepcion mansion frequented by former President Manuel Quezon, and was used by celebrated artists (Pavarotti's teacher Arrigo Pola among them) as their waiting areas before they headed for the town glorietta where a concert was held regularly in the 1950s and the '60s.

Piazzola's "Histoire du Tango" was given sensitive interpretation by flutist GJ Herman Gomez and guitarist Chaitanya Aquino, and Schubert's Sonata Arpeggione revealed the mature interpretative side of Gomez with superb accompaniment by pianist Jonathan Arevalo Coo.

But the festival's preview favorite was no doubt the 14-year-old pianist, Oliver Salonga, whose interpretation of Mozart's Sonata in C Major K330, Molina's "Malikmata" and Chopin's "Fantasie Impromptu" and Scherzo No. 2 in B Flat Minor drew prolonged applause.

"What can I say after this glorious feast of music?" said violinist Carmencita Lozada, in whose honor the concert was dedicated. "We certainly are not lacking in talents and we have a responsibility to hone them properly."

Lozada (the first and the last Filipino to win a major prize in the Paganini Competition in Italy) waxed nostalgic about the musical past of Pasig, and pointed out the museum was a perfect venue for the renaissance of classical music in Pasig City.

After the triumphant preview concert, the Pasig Music Festival formally opens on April 7 at the Pasig Museum, with tenor Lemuel de la Cruz and pianist Najib Assail in an evening of opera, Broadway and *kundiman*.

Here and there

AFTER HIS two successful one-man exhibits, TV director Al Quinn shifts to new challenging medium in his coming exhibit called "Quintessential Flow: A Mixed Media Exhibit" at the Home Zone, Glorietta 4, on April 12.

Quinn takes a respite from sketches and oil painting with a unique collection portraying various scenes from Mother Nature using water, driftwood and seashells.

* * *

Soprano Evelyn Mandac breezed in for a brief visit and conducted master classes at UP and UST, and so did violinist Carmencita Lozada, who conducted master classes at the PWU and St. Scholastica's College.

Tenor Otoniel Gonzaga also arrived, sang in Iloilo and left quietly on Holy Thursday.

Australia-based soprano Carol David was also in town. She commands a fanatic following among music lovers at Heritage

AGONY/ p.E3

Eenie, meenie, minie, more...

FLUTIST GJ Herman Gomez and classical guitarist Chaitanya Aquino in the Pasig premiere of Piazzola's "Histoire du Tango" at the Pasig Museum

Agony and redemption . . .

From page E2

House in Blue Ridge, and for a good reason: She sang with her heart and the voice was first-rate. But she had to do something else in Australia. When she had a recital in London some years back, she was accompanied by pianist J. Greg Zuniega.

Speaking of another Heritage House hit recital, the small crowd celebrating Nestor Mata's birthday was at once stunned by the talent of young clarinetist Girard Moses Villanueva, who was in superb form in the Copland clarinet concerto with Jonathan Arevalo Coo on the piano. Villanueva graduated with honors last week and was given the Outstanding Artist Award by the Philippine High School for the Arts. Another favorite in that recital was Oliver Salonga.

Competition-famous pianist Jovianney Emmanuel Cruz returned to the CCP through a Barber concerto and was technically impeccable. He had everything going for him, but he should get rid of the competitive stunt and start communicating with his audience.

Prodigies also have to mature, and if they don't, their music suffers. Competition winners are as good as their last qualifying rounds, but a noncompetitive concert is something else. You have to show other facets—artistry, for one—and not just flashy pyrotechnics. In music schools, here's one element that cannot be taught but can be imbibed—the right and sublime attitude toward music.

San Francisco Conservatory-based piano scholar Hiyas Hila got straight A's in all her subjects this semester and is headed to garnering all the school honors. She is now gearing for her first Saint-Saens Concerto No. 2.

The Clarion Chamber Ensemble founded by flutist David Johnson pitches in for the financially strapped classical station dzFE 98.7 FM with a fund-raising concert on April 18, 7:30 p.m., at the Francisco Santiago Hall, Makati City.

In this concert, Prof. Chino Toledo will conduct the ensemble in a work called "Theme Variations and Finale." Others in the repertoire are Spohr's Quintet Op. 52 for Piano and Winds and Septet for Piano Strings and Winds Op. 147. For ticket reservations, call Julia at 844-4172 or David Johnson at (0916) 474-1860.

VIOLINIST Carmencita Lozada

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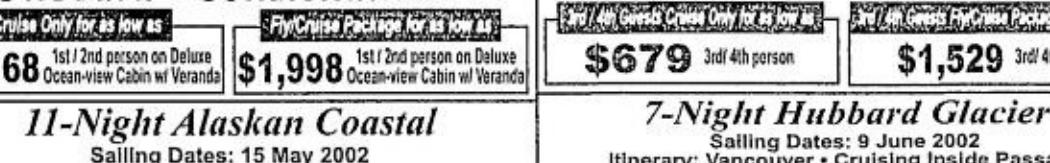

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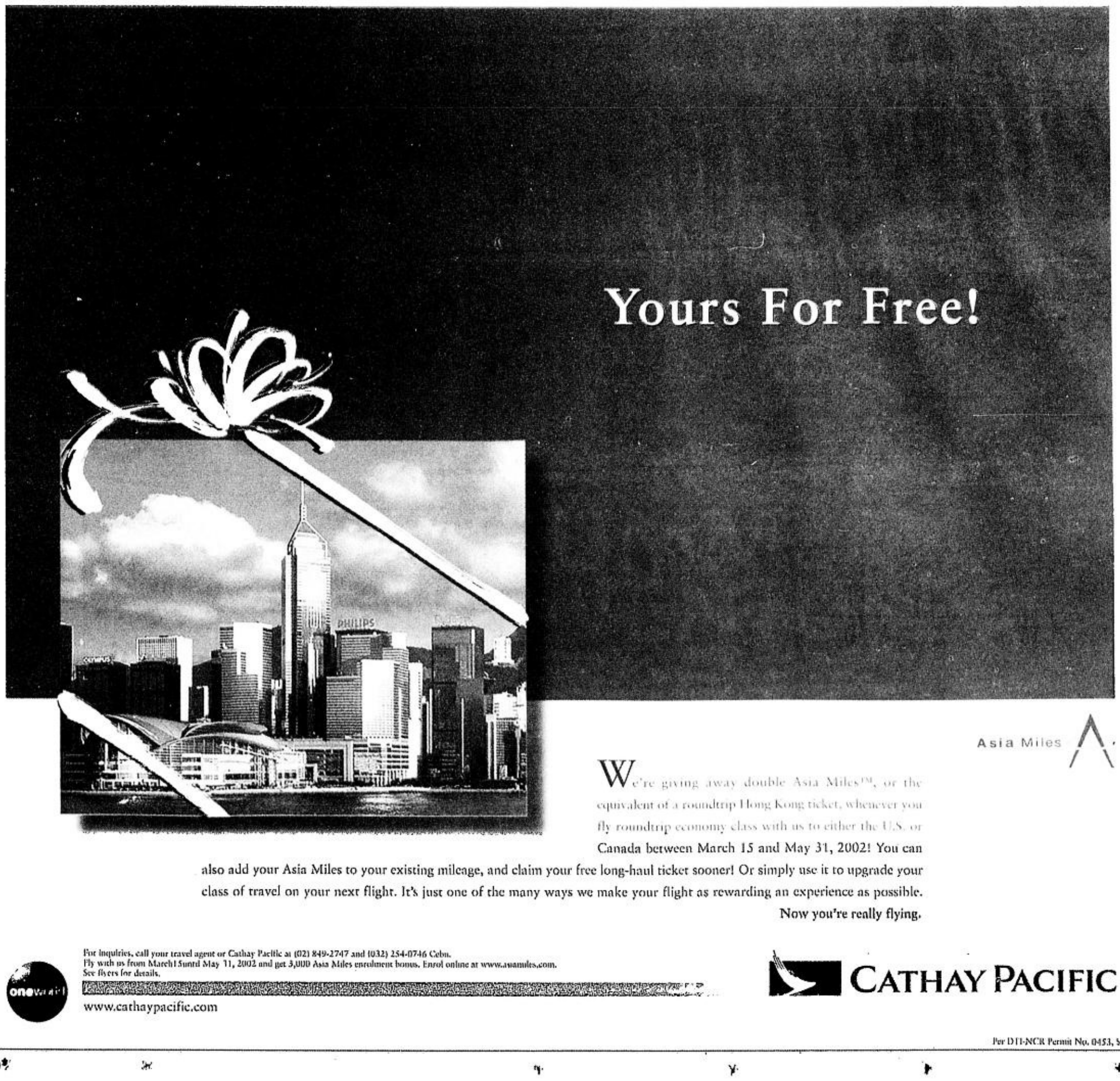


There's more to theater than performance

By Audie Gemora
Contributor

IF you are a theater enthusiast, you should know these names—Lea Salonga, Ryan Cayabyab, Zeneida Amador, Nonon Padilla, Freddie Santos, Monique Wilson, Celeste Legaspi, Bart Guingona, Leo Valdez, Carlo Orosa, Bobby Garcia and Gerry Fernandez.

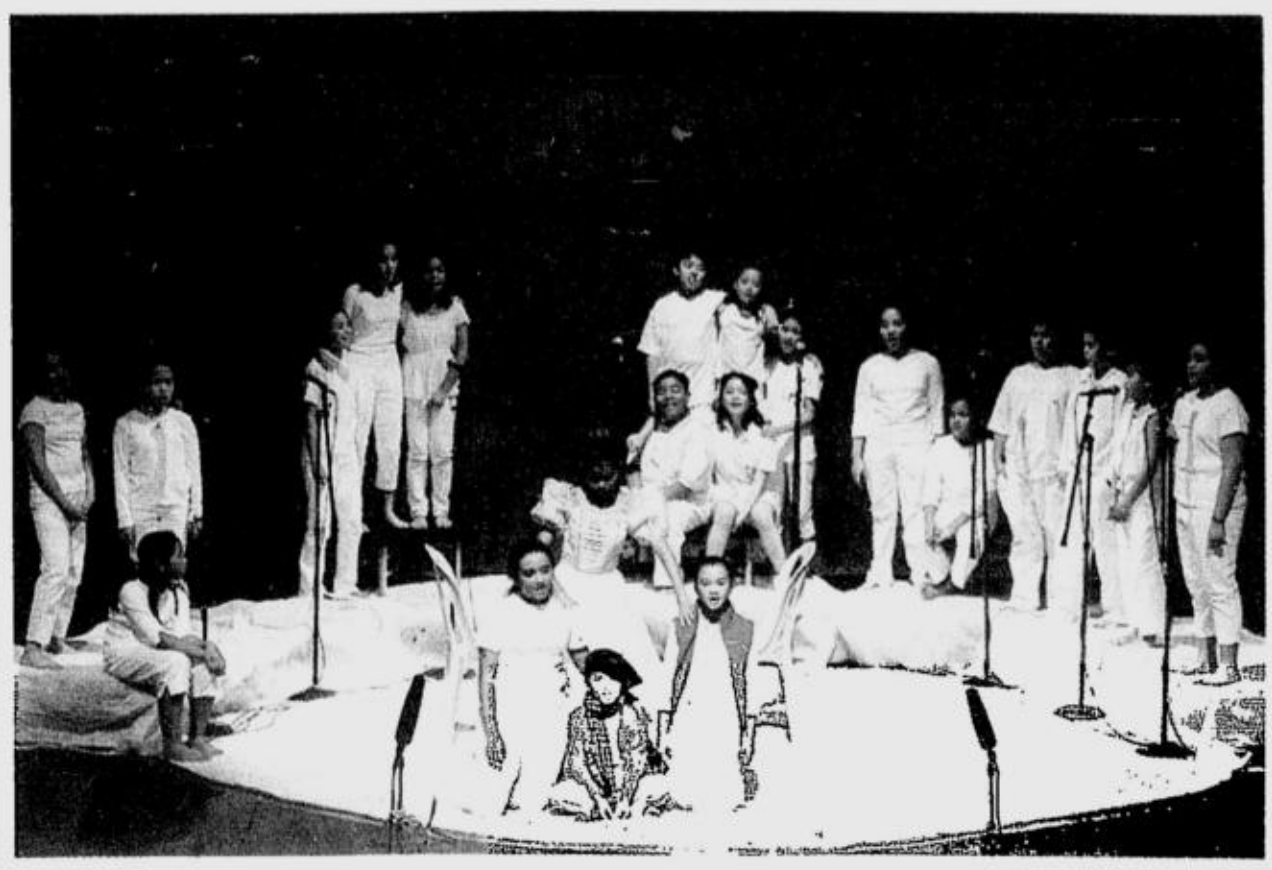
OF STAGE

If you get stumped with the last name on that list, it's not surprising. Gerry Fernandez is not an impresario, a distinguished director, a celebrated composer or a theater star. Yet his is the one name all the other aforementioned theater luminaries will call on for any given event. You see, Gerry Fernandez works behind the scenes, as the country's foremost and most sought-after technical director.

"What is that?" you may ask. Well, a technical director, or TD, oversees all the technical aspects of a production. No matter how beautiful a show is, it takes only one technical glitch to render the production a disaster: a dead mic, a wrong light cue, a malfunctioning set, an accident onstage, special effects gone haywire!

Shadow

Like "The Phantom of the Opera," audiences never see the TD but his shadow covers everything they watch onstage. As TD, Gerry has worked with practically all of the leading theater groups in the country. He is in great demand in the concert and corporate circuits as well. Gerry's credits include "Noli," "Fili," "Rama at Sita," "They're Playing Our Song," "Rent" and "Miss Saigon"; and concerts by Pavarotti, Jose Carreras, James Taylor, David Benoit, Janet Jackson and Gypsy Kings. The San Miguel Foundation for the Performing Arts has signed him on as resident TD. He chairs the Technology Commission of the Philippine Association of Theater Designers and Technicians and is a member of the United States Institute of Theater Technology. He also acted as consultant for venues that have been cropping up lately—Onstage Greenbelt, the Insular Life Theater in Alabang, the refurbished St. Cecilia's Hall of St. Scholastica College and the school auditoriums of La Salle Zobel, Brent School Sta. Rosa, Assumption Antipolo and International School in Bonifacio.



TRUMPETS PLAYSHOP. The annual Trumpets Summer Playshop opens today at three venues: Stageworx at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Service Town of the Alabang Town Center and Sophia Zobel's Steps studio along P. Tamo Extension. Call 636-2842 or 633-5010.

Those credentials notwithstanding, Gerry was self-effacing at our appointed lunch interview.

"I don't feel comfortable about this, Auds."

"Gers," I said reassuringly, "we both agree that there is a dearth of production people and hardly any qualified technical directors to service our burgeoning entertainment industry. If we are to entice people to go into your very specialized field, they need to know about you and your success story!"

My excitement was hard to contain. Gerry Fernandez, after all, agreed to take time off his very busy schedule to teach a special course at this year's Trumpets Summer Playshop. Gerry's Tech Shop is a hands-on four-day module designed for professional production people and greenhorns interested in learning the technical side of the theater. Playshop gets over 1,400 enrollees every summer all wanting to be singers, actors, dancers, models and newscasters. No one seems to realize that without production people, there wouldn't be any shows! Thus the idea to come up with a special course on technical theater.

Vocational

"I can understand why people would rather perform. It's perceived to be a fun, glamorous, high-paying profession. Production work, on the other hand, is considered vocational," Gerry says. Fact is, Gerry, who ironically started out as a classical guitarist and stage actor in his hometown Bacolod, but made the switch to production 19 years ago, now gets more jobs and earns a lot more than most performers. So much for the much ballyhooed acting profession. Gerry is living proof one can make a successful career in production.

"Pinoys are among the best production people in the world. After working alongside foreign technicians brought in by Cameron Mackintosh for the Manila run of 'Miss Saigon,' I realized that we are second to none. All they have over us is money that buys technology and formal training. Our edge, *dahil sanay tayo sa* limited resources, is being more versatile and resourceful. For example, their sets are all computerized. When something bogs down, which happens often enough, they are paralyzed. The Filipinos, undaunted, will jump in and find a quick remedy.

"What we lack in formal training we learn hands on. Filipino production people are very knowledgeable. But because this wealth of knowledge is culled by practitioners from on-the-job experiences, there are a dozen and one approaches to the same thing. One reason I want to conduct this four-day Tech Shop is so that stage crew, stage managers, project directors, production designers, costume makers, set builders, lighting-sound designers, electricians and engineers

THERE'S/ p.E5

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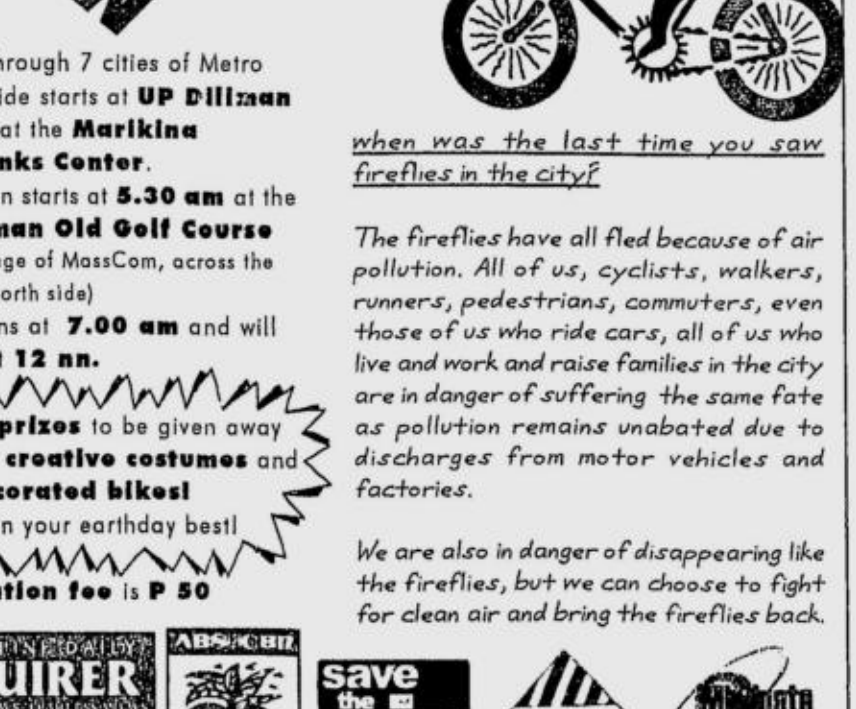

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There's more . . .

From page E4

can once and for all take time out from work, sit down, exchange ideas, knowledge and procedures and identify which practices are best suited for our industry."

Tireless

"Actors take a hiatus in between shows but us production people normally jump into the next project for pre-prod work and never get a chance to talk shop. We'll go over roles and responsibilities, language and communication, different types of production drawings, documents, specifications, tools and equipment, set-up. We'll do some problem-solving and group projects," Gerry says. "My dream," he adds with a glint in his eyes, "is for peers to eventually come up with a 'Filipino Production Manual' like North America's 'Backstage Handbook and Illustrated Almanac of Technical Information' so the local industry can have a common reference."

Not meaning to dampen Gerry's enthusiasm, I asked, "What about this common attitude among practitioners that because they are already pros they no longer need to train further?" Without missing a beat, Gerry confessed, "Auds, I have one vice in life—taking courses and workshops here and abroad as often as I can. One cannot stop learning in our highly technical field. *Maiiwanan siya ng panahon.*"

Words of wisdom from the No. 1 technical director in the country. Don't miss his class!

Tech Shop runs April 8-11. Call Trumpets 636-2842 or 633-5010.

Couples for Christ presents UST Singers

THE COUPLES for Christ Medical Mission Foundation Inc. will feature the world-famous University of Santo Tomas Singers in a concert, "Music & Mission," on April 7 at the UST Medicine Auditorium.

Under the baton of Prof. Fidel Calalang, the UST Singers, the Pontifical University's premiere mixed chorale ensemble composed of students and alumni from the different colleges and faculties, has achieved renown as one of the world's top choirs.

In 1995, the choir won four first prizes and the Choir of the World grand prize at the 47th Llangolien International Musical Eistedfod in Wales, UK, the only Asian choir to achieve such a feat until this day. In 1998, it won two first prizes and the Prix du Public at the 27th Florilege Vocal de Tours in Tours, France, and four first prizes at the 37th Concorso Internazionale di Canto Corale C.A. Seghizzi in Gorizia, Italy.

CHOIR of the World

Last July, it was named best choir in the 2001 World Choral Festival in Puebla, Mexico.

"Music & Mission" will have a matinee and a gala and will benefit the CFC Medical Foundation. Call 727-0681 to 87, 727-0707 or e-mail cfcglobe@info.com.ph.

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You'd be with several of our students, completing their studies in the U.K.

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SIMO

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BABY BLUES

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BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ali MacGraw, Debbie Reynolds, Phillip Schofield, Jennifer Runyon

Happy Birthday: You will instinctively know what changes to make to enhance your appearance and your attitude this year. This is a time of change and you must be willing to give in to what you can't change in order to move forward. This can be a wonderful year for you if you will compromise and let your intuition lead the way. Your numbers are 5, 13, 16, 21, 34, 39

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Couple what you learn with what you already know and you'll be on to something worthwhile. Trust your own judgment and you will move in the direction that is best for you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't bother trying to get financial projects off the ground today. Some obstacles are likely to stand in your way. Focus on yourself and your health.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't let your emotions interfere with your professionalism. You will have problems with colleagues if you talk about your personal dilemmas.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Give work your best shot. You have plenty to gain if you are quick to react to whatever situations are occurring around you. Your unique ideas will lead to interesting relationships with co-workers.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You have to do something creative today. You'll be so entertaining that it will be hard for those around you to resist your charm. Get out and have some fun.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): This is not the day to make decisions regarding your home or your family. Keep your thoughts to yourself and focus on your career and getting ahead financially.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can count on your friends to help you through anything you face today. Control your anxiety by channeling your energy into productive and creative endeavors. .

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Do your research well before you decide to invest in something that could potentially set you back financially. If you listen to good advice and refuse to make hasty decisions you will be able to avoid an unnecessary mishap.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Opportunities to make money are evident. It may be time to solidify either a business or personal relationship. Say what you think and you'll discover that others will stop to listen.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Opportunities to form partnerships will develop if you get out and talk about your plans. You will get the help you need if you ask for it. You must be careful not to ignore small but important details today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can make major gains today if you're on top of your game. Job opportunities appear to be quite fruitful. Your ability to organize and plan your actions with finesse will help you win favors from people in high places.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You may have to defend yourself today when it comes to dealing with family. New business ventures will be profitable. It's time to put your dreams in motion.

Birthday Baby: Your ideas will always be practical and well thought out. You will plan everything carefully and leave no room for error. You will always be willing to help the ones you love.

BEN

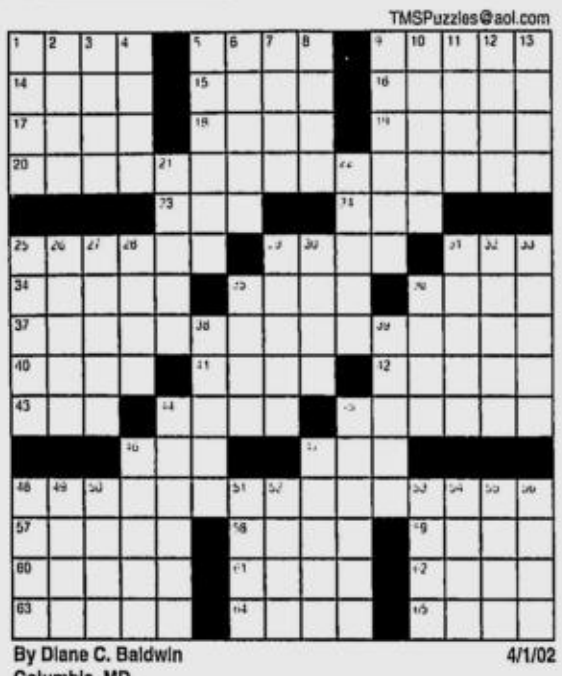
BY DANIEL SHELTON

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD

4/1/02

ACROSS
1 Gloom's companion
5 Pinnacle
9 Rough and tough
14 Sea-bound land
15 Reach 212 degrees
16 Gazed lustfully
17 Passel
18 Cools down
19 Used a level
20 Was forced to wait
23 India export
24 Jersey, for short
25 Prickly plant
29 Disparaging remark
31 Worshipped one
34 Egg-shaped
35 Knotted
36 Business icon
37 Gladdened
40 Policy
41 Vexes
42 Channel opening
43 Guileful
44 Pack cargo
45 Covered in fescue
46 Dyeing container
47 Tot's "piggy"
48 Got stupefied
57 Inflexible
58 Voiced
59 Flower support
60 Coral construction
61 Emerald land
62 Incas' home
63 Short and direct
64 For fear that
65 Pollution woe

DOWN
1 Harrow part
2 Capital near a fiord
3 Ersatz butter
4 Pathetic whimper
5 Tolerates
6 Winter drink
7 Demeanor
8 Otherwise
9 Teresa's title
10 See eye to eye
11 Colonel Mustard's game
12 Loaf end
13 Bookie's concern
21 Chopin piece
22 Wall supports
25 Monks' hoods
26 Benefit
27 Tiresomely sentimental
28 Chronometer information
29 Tendon
30 Sheltered spots
31 Scores for Mia Hamm
32 Grimm beasts
33 A bit eccentric
35 Matador's rival
36 Musical Horne
38 Same
39 Employment source
44 Bicycle seat
45 Drinking vessel
46 Bridal accessories
47 Bygone rulers
48 House on campus
49 Solemn ceremony
50 Frankenstein's helper
51 Christmas in Paris
52 Cleveland lake
53 Vipers
54 News bit
55 Detective Wolfe
56 Self-satisfied

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

M	A	M	A	■	S	M	E	L	T	■	W	R	A	P
E	G	A	D	■	T	A	N	Y	A	■	H	O	N	E
E	R	M	A	■	E	L	V	E	S	■	I	O	T	A
T	E	E	P	A	R	T	Y	■	T	O	N	S	I	L
S	E	T	T	L	E	■	■	S	E	V	E	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	P	O	O	C	H	■	E	L	A	T	E
A	R	A	B	■	S	A	R	A	■	R	I	G	O	R
L	O	U	I	S	■	T	A	R	■	T	S	A	R	S
M	O	T	E	L	■	E	N	I	D	■	T	R	E	E
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■	■	■	B	E	D	S	■	■	P	A	S	S	E	S
M	O	I	E	T	Y	■	A	I	L	H	O	U	S	E
I	D	O	L	■	L	A	S	S	O	■	L	I	S	A
F	O	W	L	■	A	P	P	L	Y	■	I	T	E	M
F	R	A	Y	■	N	O	S	E	S	■	D	E	N	S

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3/29/02

KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

Mehan Garden controversy reaches Intramuros

By Constantino C. Tejero

MEHAN Garden sprawls on contested territory.

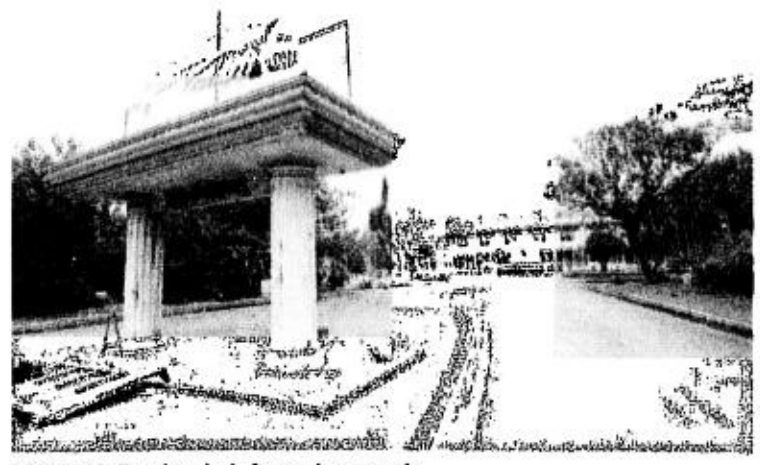
The Parian, the Chinese community outside the walls of Intramuros during the Spanish era, later became the Jardin Botanico, one of the earliest botanical gardens in Asia. The place was renamed the Mehan Garden during the American era. It has since been declared a historic site by the National Historical Institute (NHI), and designated an archaeological site by the National Museum.

It was in light of this historical significance and it serving as one of the lungs of the city that, when Manila Mayor Lito Atienza proposed the construction of a bus terminal and a city college there, concerned organizations rose in vehement protest.

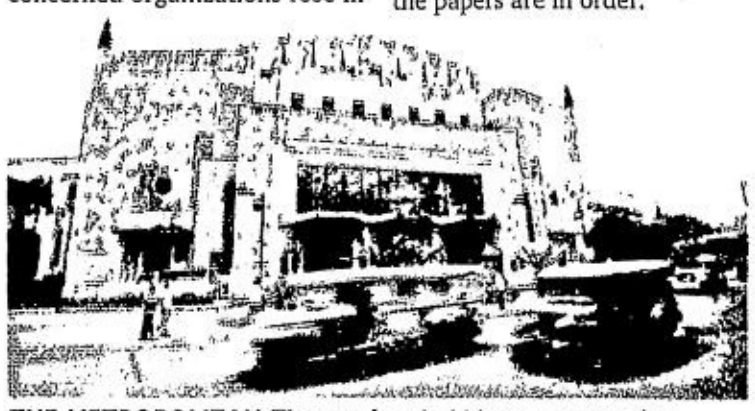
On the forefront were the Heritage Conservation Society (HCS), Earth Day Movement, Foundation for Philippine Environment, Artists for the Environment, Winner Foundation. They believed Manileños couldn't afford one more culture crime to be committed by City Hall, which had earlier toppled down the Art Deco Jaialai Building.

The groups achieved some sort of victory when the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) revoked the environmental clearance certificate for both projects, as the construction clearance was not secured from the NHI or the National Museum.

Park 'n' Ride—a combination parking lot, bus terminal and mall—has been completed but declared illegal and imposed with a penalty of P50,000 daily until the papers are in order.



MEHAN Garden is left to desuetude.



THE METROPOLITAN Theater façade hides a monstrosity behind—the Park 'n' Ride.

Meanwhile, the DENR convened a search committee to identify alternate sites for the City College of Manila (CCM) campus. The most appropriate location the committee found was the former site of the Ateneo Municipal de Manila, a 1,000-sq-m lot owned by the Intramuros Administration (IA).

And here another controversy erupted. Now the contest over territory has transferred inside the walls of Intramuros.

On standstill

It appears that, a few months ago, IA chair and Department of Tourism (DOT) Secretary Richard Gordon had agreed for CCM to be relocated to an architecturally accurate reconstruction of the old Ateneo in Intramuros. The "agreement" has since been revoked.

"*Hindi raw ibibigay*," says architect Deogracias Tamblan Jr., director and officer in charge of Manila's Flagship Projects Office (FPO), the agency tasked with designing all civic architecture for the Atienza administration. "*Hindi umiimik ang* Intramuros Administration. *Sumusulat kami pero hindi sinasagot ni* Gordon. Well, we wrote two or three times, and he replied once, *na alam ko hindi* yes *ang sagot at hindi naman* no."

HCS development director Carlos Celdran says the DOT is stonewalling their efforts to relocate the CCM to the site.

"We've been trying to negotiate the lot but Gordon has not indicated what to do with that lot," he says in frustration. "Right now it's on standstill. It's communication breakdown now. The DOT won't talk to us about the issue anymore. When we call, he's always out of the country.

"The DOT has the last say on the issue. If it doesn't want the CCM there, *ba't hindi sinabi noon pa* so we could have looked for another site? Now it's not only CCM that's at risk, but also Mehan Garden."

Historical truth

Gordon sounds just as frustrated about the issue. He says he did make the offer some months ago, but it was conditional.

"There was no agreement," he insists, and delivers a mouthful. "I said they could have the site only if Ateneo would agree. The historical truth is, that's the site of the old Ateneo where our national hero José Rizal studied. In fact, while he was being escorted on the way to Bagumbayan to be shot, they passed by the place and he asked about the building and was told, 'That's the Ateneo...' And now, imagine someone passing by that site and being told, 'That's the CCM.' "

Hoping to break the impasse, HCS chair Augusto Villalon wrote a letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo, dated Jan. 17. He told her Gordon informed them he had no objection to the use of the site, with the condition that "the school be renamed the Ateneo Municipal de Manila, managed by the Jesuit fathers, and fully funded by the City of Manila."

Celdran finds this illogical, "simply because the CCM is not the Ateneo, so why should it be called as such?"

He relates his last meeting with Gordon, which ended rather badly between them. "He doesn't like the quality of CCM students," Celdran says. "He's afraid they would damage the walls there."

Gordon denies ever saying that.

Other plans

"*Masama ba 'yan kung ilagay ko diyan ang* Ateneo later?" says Gordon, who's an Ateneo graduate. "If Ateneo would like, it can have a school for poor people there. Not a regular school, because it's a small place—but it can have a museum of Asian studies, with a lecture hall where they can hold lecture series, discussions."

Celdran says the DOT actually intends the site for something else. "He wants a hotel and a light-and-sound museum there. We're just waiting for him to announce it publicly."

Gordon counters the DOT had the lease contract before he even came in.

In a letter to HSC dated Feb. 2, Gordon's predecessor at the DOT, Gemma Cruz Araneta, herself a descendant of Rizal, confirms she was still the DOT secretary when the lease contract was signed. The site has been leased to the Renacimiento company headed by a certain Mr. Asiniero, whose partner is the Sol Melia company, a Spanish hotel and resort chain.

Araneta details the group's plan in her letter: They are supposed to build a 200-bedroom luxury hotel in the area. The façade of the hotel will be an exact replica of the Ateneo Municipal. The group also wants to lease an adjoining lot, the former site of the San Ignacio Church. They plan to reconstruct the shell of the church to house a grand ballroom or a gallery annexed to the hotel.

Araneta says the HCS should ask the DOT for copies of the papers, plus the illustration of the façade shown her. She adds that the DOT legal office, headed by director Evelyn Cajigal, knows all the details and has all the paperwork.

Sacred ground

Then she asks, gently, as it were: "Why is Secretary Gordon imposing that condition about the Jesuits running the school? That will just make things more complicated because the CCM is a government school."

Gordon stands pat on his decision. "In fact, I'm trying to keep the integrity of the place," he says. " As IA chairman, I have to be historically accurate about the area. It is sacred ground. The CCM can go anywhere else. Otherwise, we can have any school there. We can have FEU there."

What's his option then for the CCM site?

"It's not my responsibility," he shoots back. "I don't want to go into a debate with Mayor Atienza on that."

The FPO is not about to surrender, however, though director Tamblan may sound weary. "*Bahala na kung ano,* but we will act independently," he says. "I want the project to go on. *Malapit na 'yan.* We're just preparing our options."

Alternate sites that have been identified are the Avanceña High School in Quiapo and the Veterans' Bank Building on Arroceros Street. But even then, the communities to be affected must be consulted.

And HCS has another battle in the offing. Secretary Gordon is picking up the Luneta boardwalk project, much to Celdran and his group's horror.

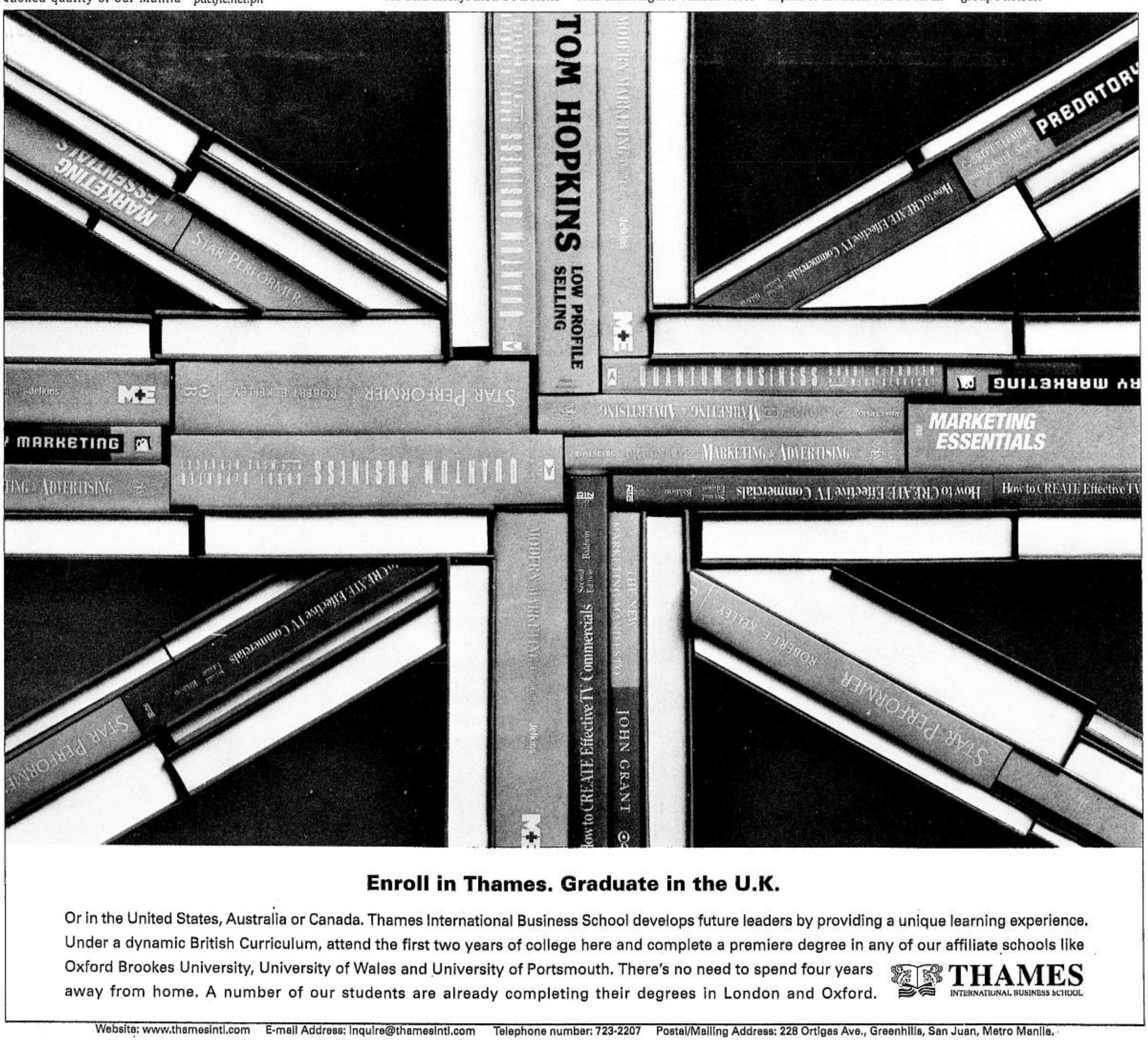
Walking around Mehan Garden

From page E8

Forest Park-Mehan Garden-Plaza Lawton-Asean Garden area would be if the City of Manila developed it into a contiguous green belt at the center of the polluted city. It would be a big step in improving the pollution-choked quality of our Manila lives.

For information on summer weekend walking tours, visit the Heritage Conservation Society website at www.hcsphils.org or call 522-2497 or 521-2239.

E-mail the author at afv@pacific.net.ph



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Walking around Mehan Garden

SPACED OUT

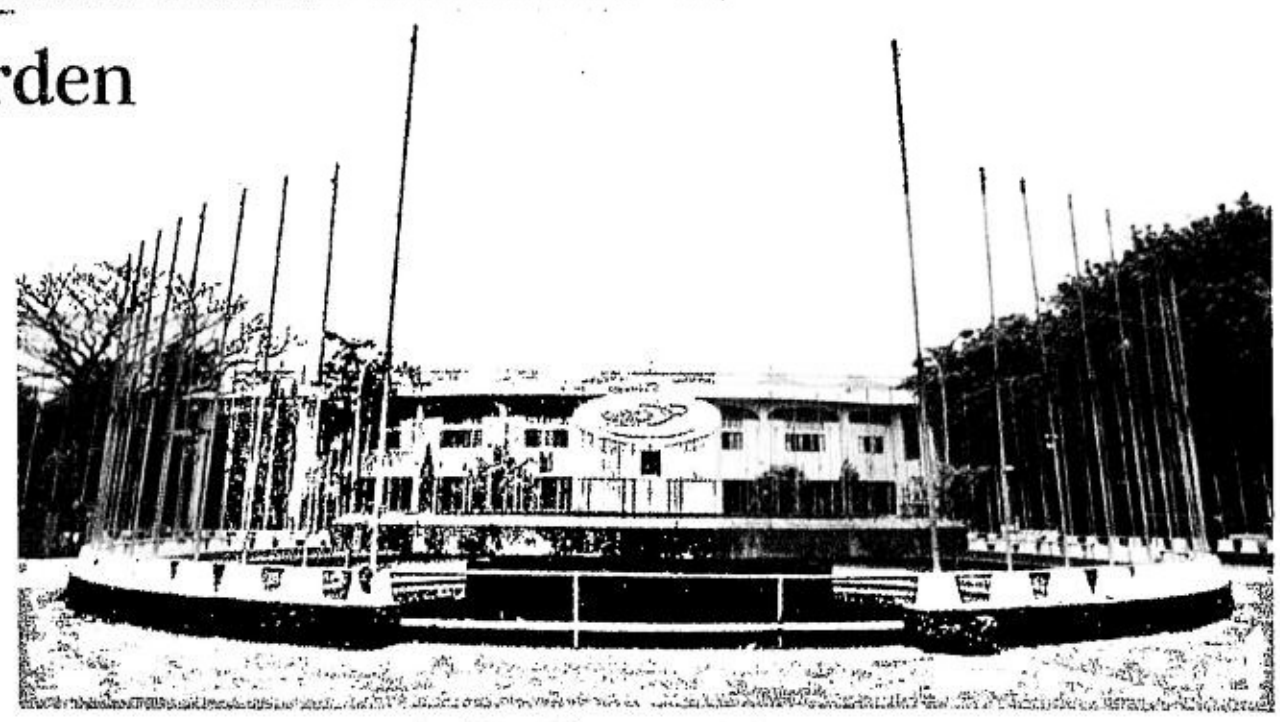
Augusto F. Villalon

TRY a summer discovery walk around the controversial Mehan Garden, feel what it used to be as compared to what it has degenerated today. Check out its unutilized possibilities as another much-needed park for Manila.

Until the 1960s, the Mehan Garden was a functioning park that was open to people until neglect slowly crept in and decay finally killed the place. It has a rich history. It was the former Jardin Botanico (Botanical Garden) during the Spanish era and before that, it was the site of the Parian where Spanish authorities designated living quarters for Manila's Chinese population that was within sight and cannon shot of Intramuros. It is a treasure trove. A sample dig done last year by archaeologists yielded enough artifacts to reinforce an earlier National Museum designation of it as an archaeological preserve.

The Manila city government has chosen the Mehan Garden as the site to build the City College of Manila. This has been opposed by heritage and environmentalist groups. The row remains unsettled. A proposal to use the old site of the Ateneo Municipal de Manila in Intramuros for the College has been met with cold shoulders by the Department of Tourism and the Intramuros Administration.

Think of what Mehan Garden and the areas around Plaza Lawton would be if the City of Manila developed it into a contiguous green belt



MEHAN Garden has become a heritage battlefield.

PHOTOS BY ERIK ARAZAS

Best time

The best time to discover Mehan Garden is in the early morning or late in the afternoon to avoid the summer heat. There really is not much to see. The site is hot and dusty, completely fenced to keep prying eyes out.

Part of the fence has gone down around the illegally constructed Park 'n' Ride building on the northern part of Mehan Garden, a monster of a structure that serves as a transportation-cum-mini mall. Where most cities build their terminals in the city limits with direct access to rapid transit facilities to efficiently and quickly bring commuters into the city, the Park and Ride defies logic by standing in an inappropriate, crowded city center, adding more congestion to the already impossible traffic.

Take a look at how the Park 'n' Ride blocks the vista of the Metropolitan Theater, one of Manila's architectural crown jewels. Designed by the renowned architect Juan Arellano in 1930, the building is an outstanding showcase of the Philippine interpretation of the Art Deco style. Architectural historian Winand Klassen ("Architecture in the Philippines," University of San Carlos, Cebu, 1986) observes, "On its façade are 'tapestries' of colored tiles, perhaps a take on traditional textiles. The grill work on the façade features Art Deco birds of paradise." The fusion of architecture and high art continues throughout the building. In its prime, the building had paintings by Amorsolo. Highly stylized relief carving of Philippine plants executed by the noted artist Isabelo Tampingco decorated the lobby walls and interior surfaces of the building. Today the building is abandoned.

If Mehan Garden, the Metropolitan Theater and the threatened Arroceros Forest Park on the other side of the Metropolitan are heritage battlefields, Plaza Lawton (Liwasang Bonifacio) and the Manila Post Office are rays of hope in the fight to save Manila.

The Manila Post Office was also done by Juan Arellano (1926) in the Neoclassic style. The Burnham Plan for Manila specified the location of the structure as the visual anchor of Taft Avenue. Designed as an urban landmark, the Manila Post Office succeeds marvelously. Its principal floor is raised above the plaza, adding monumentality to the building's colonnaded façade.

Visual foil

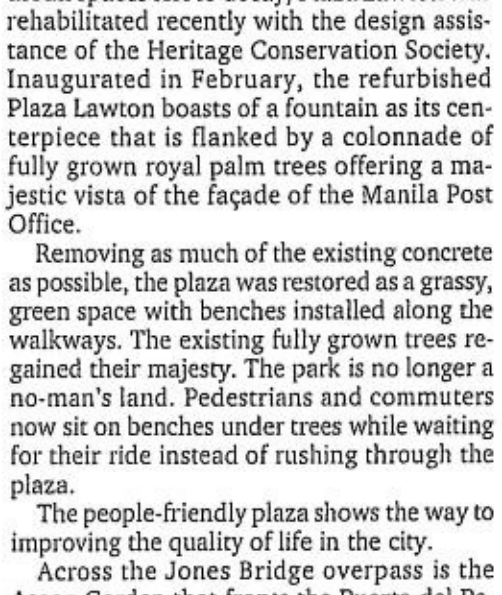
Plaza Lawton was the open breathing space designed to serve as a visual foil to the two Arellano structures. Another of the many urban spaces left to decay, Plaza Lawton was rehabilitated recently with the design assistance of the Heritage Conservation Society. Inaugurated in February, the refurbished Plaza Lawton boasts of a fountain as its centerpiece that is flanked by a colonnade of fully grown royal palm trees offering a majestic vista of the façade of the Manila Post Office.

Removing as much of the existing concrete as possible, the plaza was restored as a grassy, green space with benches installed along the walkways. The existing fully grown trees regained their majesty. The park is no longer a no-man's land. Pedestrians and commuters now sit on benches under trees while waiting for their ride instead of rushing through the plaza.

The people-friendly plaza shows the way to improving the quality of life in the city.

Across the Jones Bridge overpass is the Asean Garden that fronts the Puerta del Parian of Intramuros, the gate that used to lead to the Parian. Think of what the Arroceros

WALKING/ p.E7



NO amount of historical marker will stop the City Hall demolition crew.

LIFE & Books

Several religious publications are competing with sexy glossies for a slice of the growing magazine market

God beyond the glossies

By Lito B. Zulueta

THEY could hardly stand side by side with the monthly glossies not only because they're less glossy but also because they wouldn't want to. After all, why should they be numbered among Metro (lifestyle mag of the rich and famous), Cosmopolitan (lifestyle mag of man-eaters) and FHM (lifestyle mag of lustful, mindless woman-eaters)? They wouldn't even feel comfortable side by side with Mega, the high-fashion mag that has reportedly some financing from the Catholic group Opus Dei.

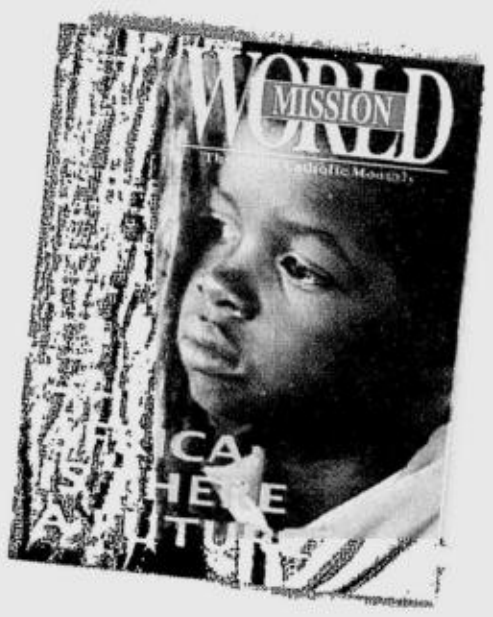
But Philippine religious publications have lately become more enterprising and energetic in competing with their secular counterparts for a slice of the burgeoning magazine market. They have employed assertive marketing techniques to boost circulation and readership. They have overhauled their look and content with varying degrees of success to improve readability and editorial appeal. Why, they've even put show-biz entertainers on their covers.

Vision

The determined stance of religious publications can be gleaned from the "20/20 vision" of Shepherd's Voice, publisher of the monthly Kerygma, arguably the largest circulating religious magazine in the country. "By the year 2020," the company says, "we dream of reaching 5 percent of the Philippine population, with Kerygma and other feature magazines printing one million copies; with Didache, Gabay and other (Bible) reflection guides printing three million copies; Companion and other scripture diaries printing one million copies; audio tapes and books selling 50,000 copies per title; and a weekly TV show reaching five million viewers."

To attain a broader market, Kerygma has employed a distribution system it calls "shep-

GOD/ p.F2



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- Geometry
- Trigonometry
- Physics

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- College Algebra
- Trigonometry
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- Math 11, 12, 18 & 20 of ATENEO

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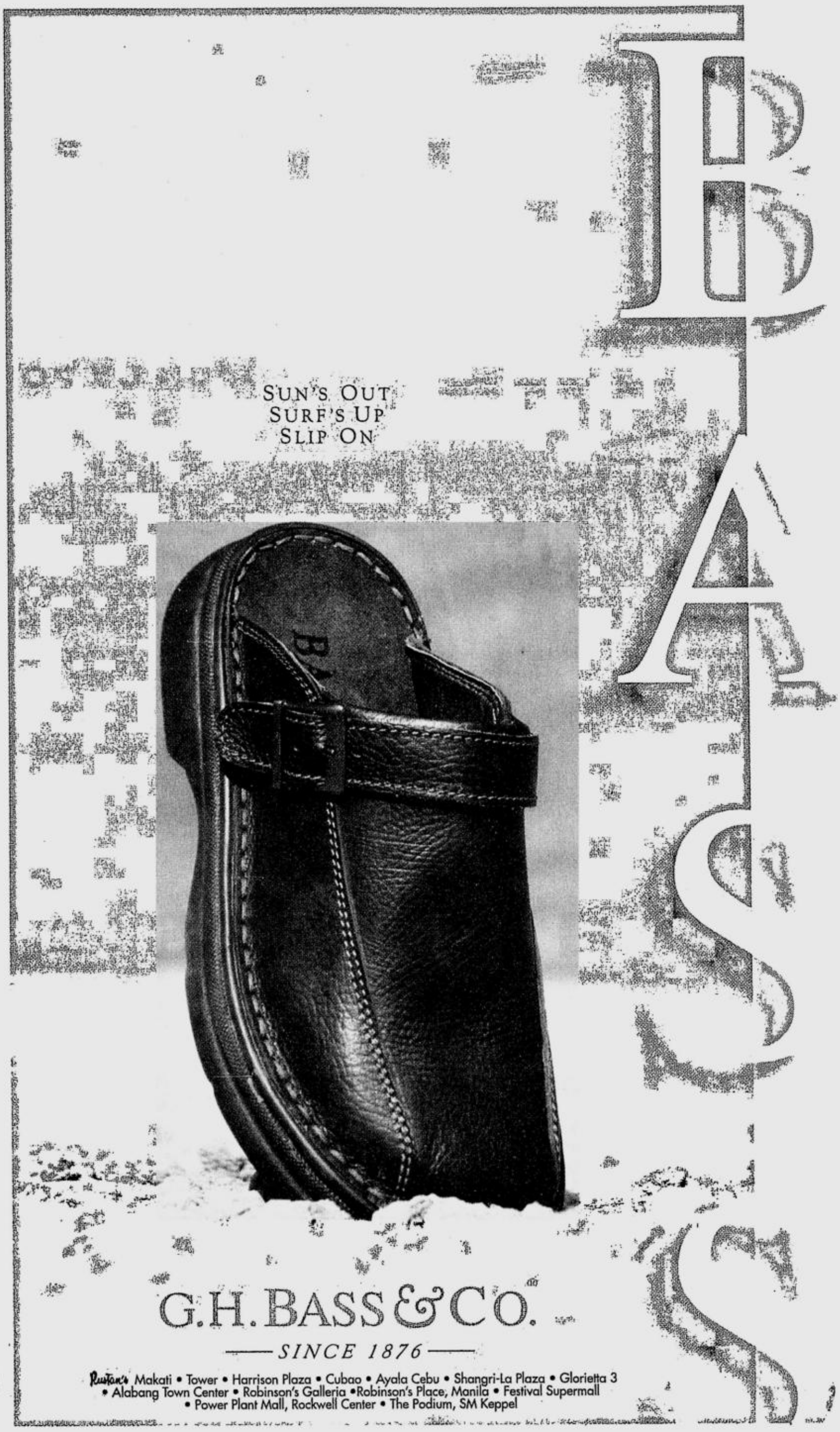

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God beyond the glossies

From page F1

herding." Individuals who sell the magazine (in marketing parlance, salesmen) are known as shepherds who try to sell copies of every issue to nonsubscribers. Another salesman is the "subscription evangelist" who takes care of subscriptions.

Unique among religious publications, Kerygma claims to have the entire archipelago as a market, with regional distribution centers in Metro Manila and the three main island groups. Perhaps because of its unique system, Kerygma, which started publication in 1992 with a print run of 2,000 given free, now claims to print 70,000 copies monthly. Last year, it says it sold 403,442 copies.

Kerygma calls itself a "Catholic inspirational magazine." It is so with some tendencies toward quietism and saccharine piety. It seems to appropriate some of the testimonial techniques honed to marketable perfection by the Born Again and evangelical Christians. It could have been the magazine of the El Shaddai had the Catholic Charismatic group taken in more yuppies and white-collar workers with college degrees.

According to a study by UST journalism student Liandro Rav Aralar, Kerygma's editorial formula is simple. It publishes "featurized personal experiences, spiritual counseling, religious trivia, church events, [and] opinions regarding spiritual matters"—in short, "simplified religious articles [that] enable the readers to grasp the spiritual message with ease."

Veteran

The formula applies as well to other religious publications that have shown a certain resilience in the finical magazine market. In contrast to Kerygma, the 47-year-old Home Life magazine bills itself as "the Philippines' family magazine" with less emphasis on the inspirational or personalistic dimension of the faith than on the familial and the more conventional aspects of Catholic living. Published by the Society of St. Paul (SSP), the Catholic congregation involved solely in the media apostolate, the magazine strives to be known more as a general-interest magazine with lessons on the Catholic faith insinuated almost unobtrusively.

The magazine, however, has seen better days. As its editor Cris Robert Cano Cellan admits, it reached a circulation of 40,000 copies in the 1970s. Circulation has tapered to 20,000. Certainly the magazine could have had a better hold on its market had it employed more creative marketing techniques and, more important, evolved the editorial product more expertly.

Like Kerygma, Home Life employs full color in nearly all its pages, which is crucial in keeping the magazine young and attractive. It also strives for variety, with a literary section edited by Palanca Hall of Famer Leoncio Deriada that is perhaps the most comprehensive and catholic among general-interest magazines.

But Home Life must try harder at editorial diversity while trying to attain editorial unity amid the heterogeneity of its articles. It must make its language more engaging without sacrificing simplicity and tightness. And it should come up with more attractive covers. The October 2001 issue had Metro Manila traffic chief Col. Luisito Maralit and his family on the cover. Neither their faces nor the pictorial was photogenic.

Problematic

Paulines, a quarterly published by SSP's sister congregation, the Daughters of St. Paul, is even more problematic. The font designs and sizes are amateurish, the cover undistinguished, the photographs and layout inept, the illustrations and graphics sophomoric. The quality of the publication is embarrassing if one considers that the DSP sisters are supposed to be dedicated to the ministry of social communications and should at least have an elementary grasp of the principles of design, of packaging articles creatively, and of the capacities and limitations of the print and electronic media.

The Pauline sisters—and even the publishers of Kerygma—could learn much from World Mission, "the Asian Catholic monthly" published in the Philippines by the Comboni Missionaries of the Heart of Jesus. Because it reports on the different Catholic mission outposts in the continent, World Mission has variety and excitement, hewing as closely as possible to reportage. It therefore does not fall into the constricting personalism or sunny but trite I-am-the-spirit-in-me disposition of Kerygma. Factual, generally tightly written and almost competently laid out, World Mission is everything that Paulines is not.

In fact, World Mission has the quality of a Time and a Newsweek. In the wide breadth of its coverage and its colorful presentation, it reflects the general optimism and courage of a Church seeking to convert and transform the largest but the least Christianized continent in the world.

Issue magazine

If World Mission is information-driven, Life Today is issue-propelled. Published by the Spanish Dominican Province in the Philippines, the monthly has steadily grown, becoming staple reading in several Catholic schools while modestly penetrating the mainstream. Typical of the Dominican character, and owing perhaps to its editor, Fr. Guillermo Tejon, an award-winning historian and scholar who trained at Oxford, the magazine is intelligent and intellectual, sometimes too intellectual for young readers. The other magazines could learn a thing or two from the way Life Today organizes its articles. Every issue has a thematic focus that provides the magazine an anchor and makes of it a resource book for current issues that is useful for classroom and focus group discussions. Some of the issues the magazine has tackled are timely, indeed: abortion, euthanasia, death and ethics in the Internet age. The treatment is informative and opinionated, but never heavy-handed and preachy. The font selections, headlines and layout are well chosen although the graphics and illustrations could stand some jazzing up.

Appealing

More appealing to the young perhaps is Word and Life, published every two months by the Salesian fathers. The Salesians also publish the missals for Sunday Masses and Word and Life predictably contains reflection articles to complement the Sunday Gospel readings. Most of the articles are based on actual faith encounters and not only by Catholics. For the reflection piece on Easter Sunday yesterday, for example, the message of resurrection is reinforced in the experience of a Turkish family during a catastrophic earthquake. After days of tense waiting, the victim Mehemet was rescued from the rubble. "The happiness of Mehemet's relatives can give us some idea of the joy experienced by Jesus' disciples... when the Teacher appeared to them alive after two terrible days of fears and tears," the article says.

The Salesians, who focus their apostolate on young people, know their job. Word and Life is handy like a comics magazine (even Kerygma has adopted the format), in full color, with cartoon-like graphics and illustrations. The fonts are young-friendly although the use of bold faces and italics for emphasis tends to get out of hand.

With all of these good points, it is hard to understand why the Salesians didn't apply the same formula on Pambatang Katekesis, a new quarterly magazine. The catechism has no color, the graphics are drab, and the fonts dour. The presentation of the catechetical points should stand some improvement. Peter Canisius' catechism during the Counter-reformation was more informative and interesting.

So are religious publications ready to go mainstream? With some improvements, yes. But without assertiveness and creativity, they will remain as their American counterparts, which one study describes as "vibrant but invisible."

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Italian cinema's grand gesture

From page F4

sequence finale which lasts an entire hour and is among the cinema's most sustained tours de force."

Once again the filmmaker explores the recurrent theme of his early oeuvre: the destruction of the family by political, economic or social forces, from the aristocrats of "Senso" and this film, to the peasant family of "Rocco and His Brothers," the fishing family of "La Terra Trema," to the intellectuals of "Sandra" and the capitalists of "The Damned."

Film historian and critic Geoffrey Nowell-Smith analyzes the oeuvre thus: "The historical process recounted is one of passive revolution and of muted change achieved by accommodations and compromise... The underlying thematic concern is with the survival or otherwise of class and family groupings in the context of historical change... The destruction of the family is seen as the tragic but necessary price to be paid if the individuals composing it are to survive."

Interesting paradox

In this gorgeous evocation of an era, the destruction of a family and the dissolution of a class are ironically set against the unification of Italy, in the context of Garibaldi's Risorgimento. The filmmaker's humanism imbues everything, from the palaces and villas on the Sicilian hills to the proletarian dwellings on the narrow streets of Palermo.

Visconti was a Marxist aristocrat, and the paradox in the man is fully laid bare in this surging melodrama. The tension lies in the contradictions inherent in his stance, and in the torn loyalties apparent in his sympathies for both the Redshirts and the Bourbons.

When Don Fabrizio, the Prince of Salina, says toward the end, "We are the leopards, the lions, the servals; after us, the jackals and hyenas will come," we are hearing the filmmaker himself lamenting the old aristocratic order nearing its doom, "struggling against the tide of change as Italian nationalism gathers force." Yet he welcomes this change, even wishes for it.

The paradox of Visconti is most interesting when we consider that he fathered Neorealism with "Ossessione," reached the movement's apotheosis with "Bellissima," then turned back the tide with the elaborately decorative operatic style of "Il Gattopardo."

The baroque ensemble is balanced by the central performance of Burt Lancaster, who plays the Prince of Salina with "poised aristocratic melancholy."

That only reminds us of what we've been missing on the big screen these days, and makes us realize that, indeed, an old order has come to pass.

Turn-of-the-20th-century memoir to be launched

ANVIL Publishing Inc. will launch "The Tayabas Chronicles: The Early Years (1886-1907), the memoirs of Concepcion Herrera vda. de Umale, on April 3, 5:30 p.m., at the National Bookstore on Katipunan Avenue, Loyola Heights, QC. The book is a useful reference for students and teachers of Philippine history as it provides flesh and character to the endless dates and names in history textbooks.

DOMINIC Agustin B. Briguera, RCBC grand prizewinner for "My Grandma's Legacy"

PRINCESS Morillo, RCBC grand prizewinner for "Bago Mahuli ang Lahat"

GIESON B. Madiano, RCBC grand prizewinner for "Ang Tinig"

New harvest of kiddie literary talents

THERE is a rich harvest of youthful but very promising literary talents that responded to the call of RCBC for its 8th Kwentong Kalikasan, Katha ng Kabataan competition this year. The contest produced four grand prizewinners.

Jane Maureen Amata, a 7-year-old Grade II-A pupil of Botolan South Central Elementary School in Botolan, Zambales, won in the English category, Segment A, for her story titled "Maningning." It was the name of the river that no longer wanted to flow into the Santa Ana village because the people cut the trees she lovingly watered.

Gieson B. Madiano is an 11-year-old Ibaloi boy from Bokod Central Elementary School in Bokod, Benguet, who overcame the isolation of his tiny municipality and emerged as another winner with "Ang Tinig." His mother used to bring him books left by the Americans in Clark Field. The short story in Filipino tells of firewood gatherers who abused their surroundings and were spooked by voices coming from invisible beings. The speakers were nature's own—the tree branch, the bird, the river, even the ashtray. Prescilla D. Ebasco, his Pilipino teacher, shares the honor with Gieson.

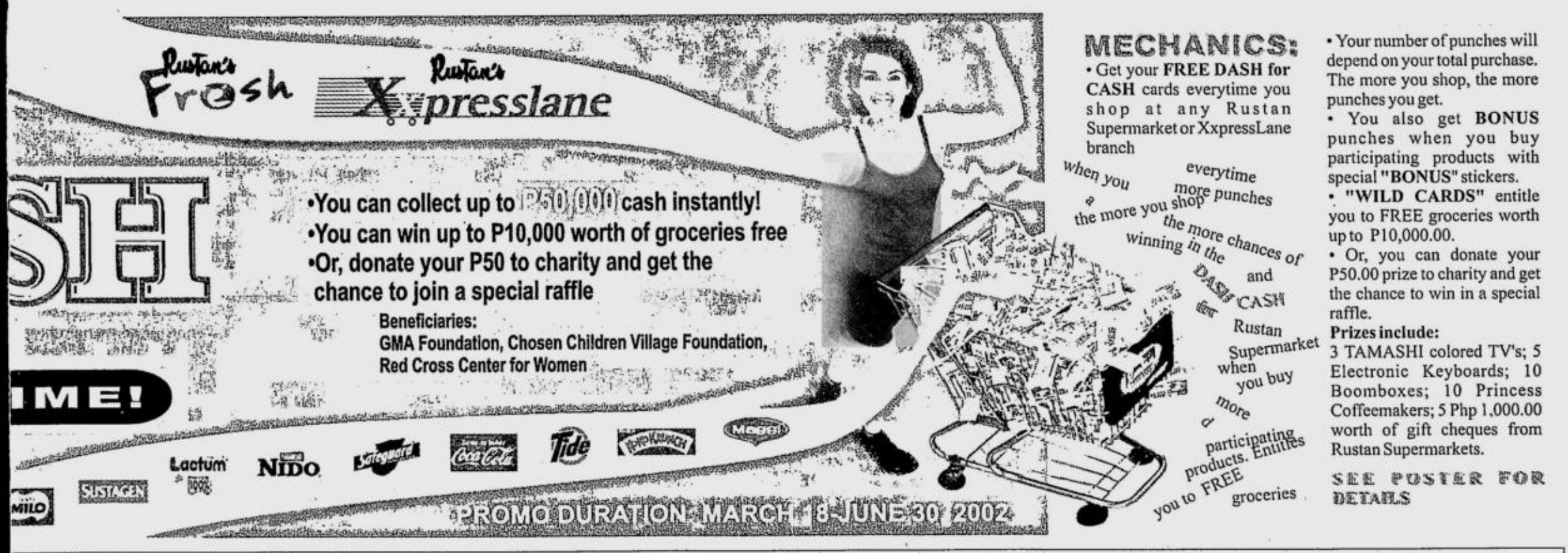
A huge announcement greets Princess Morillo and her mentor, Melanita B. Pantalla, at the main gate of Baesa Elementary School in Caloocan for her winning entry, "Bago Mahuli ang Lahat." It tells of a boy's nightmare where he is transported inside a computer game where garbage threatens to engulf him. Like Jane Maureen and Gieson, Princess is an honors student since first grade, and she loves to read.

Naga Central School II produced another winner for Segment B, English category. Zenaida T. Gerez mentored Dominic Agustin B. Briguera. His composition is titled "My Grandma's Legacy." It tells of his family's Christmas vacation in Bauang, La Union, where his grandmother lives. There he learned how a simple life can produce golden memories, good health and long life. School organ editor in chief Dominic is also a veteran competitor placing third in the Quiz Bee in 2001, third in the 2002 Battle of the Brains, band leader of the drum and lyre corps which placed first in Naga City, and finalist in newswriting in General Santos City. Dominic just won a scholarship to Ateneo de Naga High School.

Awards Night is on April 4, 6 p.m., at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium located at the 4/L of the RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City.

All grand prizewinners will receive P30,000 each while the teachers are entitled to P5,000 each. The schools will receive P20,000 each. Individual scholarship packages from Pacific Plans and Grepalife for each winner worth P25,000 will also be given.

All finalists will receive RCBC savings account passbooks worth P3,000 each and certificates of recognition. The four winning stories will be dramatized and interpreted during the Awards Night by professional actors directed by Noel Añonuevo of ABS Foundation. Guest of honor is Education Secretary Raul Roco.



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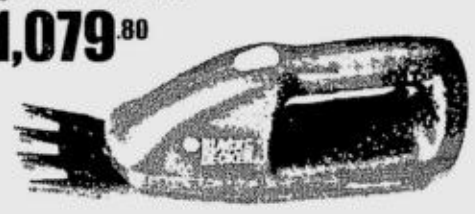

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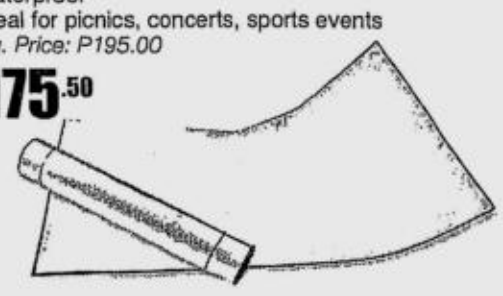

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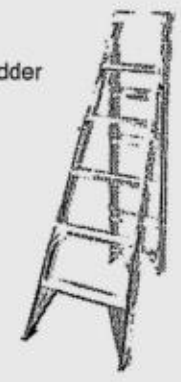

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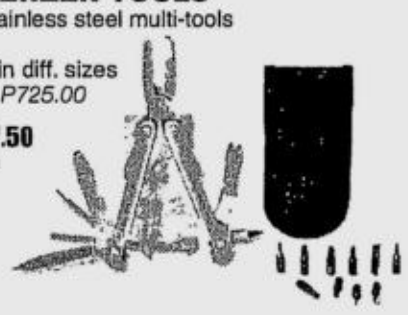

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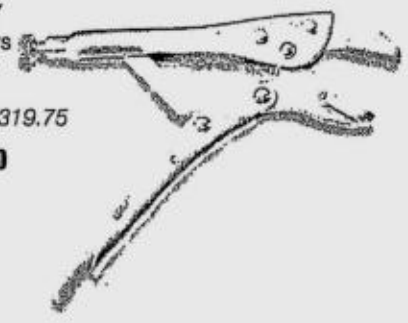

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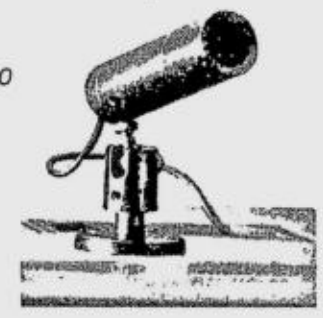

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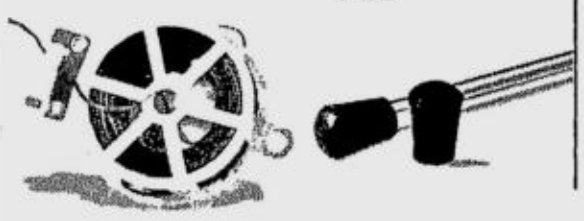

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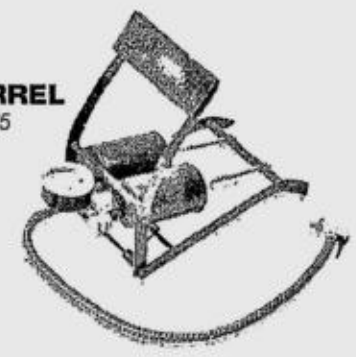

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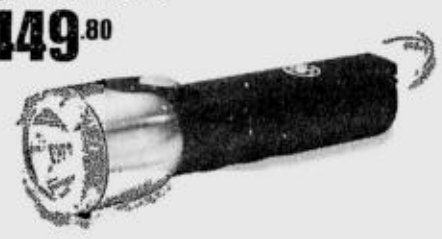

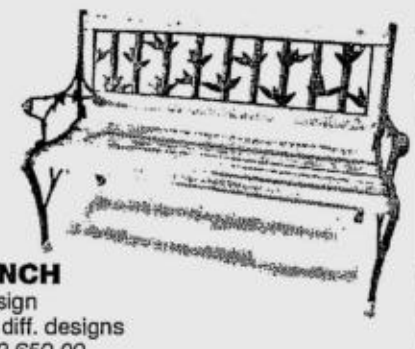

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Italian cinema's grand gesture

By Constantino C. Tejero

WHAT we were most concerned with at the Oscars last Monday was the Best Foreign-Language Film. It's a given that the winner of the award is almost always better than the Oscar Best Picture itself. This year's winner, Bosnia-Herzegovina's "No Man's Land," is certainly a better cinematic experience than the Best Picture, "A Beautiful Mind."

It's just too bad we don't usually get to see these exceptional foreign films. It's rain in a dusty summer if one or two stray into those mini film festivals perennially held in our malls. And even then, it's catch-me-if-you-can for the cineaste.

The Italians hold the distinction of having won the most number of this award. Recently, a mini Italian filmfest came and went without so much as an arrivederci.

On March 4-14, the MCO Foundation, in cooperation with the Embassy of Italy, Equitable PCIBank, Galleria Duemila and the Philippine-Italian Association, held the Italian Cinema Week. It screened eight important films that won awards at Cannes, Venice, Berlin and the Oscars, such as Luchino Visconti's "The Leopard," Liliana Cavani's "Francesco," Nanni Moretti's "The Son's Room," Gianni Amelio's "Lamerica," Valerio Zurlini's "The Tartars' Desert," Ferzan Ozpetek's "Ignorant Fairies," Gabriele Salvatores' "Nirvana" and Ermanno Olmi's "The Tree of Wooden Clogs."

The most important of these should be "Il Gattopardo," the filmization of Giuseppe di Lampedusa's novel, and an exemplar of what film critic Vincent Canby calls "Visconti's love for the grand cinematic gesture."

Intellectual epic

Screened was the 180-minute version. Contrary to the MCO leaflet's claim, however, this is not the "unabridged edition." Released in the early 1960s as a 165-minute film, it has had a 195-minute version. Then in the early '80s it was restored to its full 205 minutes, or three hours and 25 minutes.

The celebrated 40-minute ball runs for a full hour in the restored version. This sequence has been described as among the great set pieces in movie history.

Says "The Ultimate Encyclopedia of the Movies" on this masterpiece: "It takes the viewer on an elegant and sensual trip through an era on the brink of revolution. It's the kind of intellectual epic Lean and Spielberg could only aspire to, with its swirling emotional impact, astounding CinemaScope visuals and gorgeous DeLuxe color. The film is played out in a series of epic set pieces, topped by the ball

ITALIAN/ p.F3

Kung kulang ang iron
sa katawan mo,
maari kang magkaroon ng
Iron Deficiency Anemia.

ISANG PAGLILINGKOD-BAYAN MULA SA UNILAB

Skeletons dug up in common grave in Quezon

STORY ON PAGE A2

Pinoy Chuck Norris?

By Carlito Pablo

THE COUNTRY'S foremost moviegoer gave Filipino soldiers undergoing US military training the ultimate accolade. President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said they reminded her of an action star: "like

PINOY/A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Rico had little drink, no drugs, police say** METRO / A17
- **91-day treasury bill rate sinks to new low** BUSINESS / B1
- **Drought hits C. Luzon** ACROSS / A12

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph | Tuesday, April 2, 2002 ★ 36 pages / 3 sections / vol.17 / no. 113 P15 | website: www.inq7.net

SC upholds sexual harassment ruling

Woman wins landmark case vs doc

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—The Supreme Court has upheld the conviction of a former health officer of this city for sexual harassment, ending a landmark case that began in 1996.

"There is still justice in this country, after all," complainant Juliet Yee said upon learning of her victory in the suit she had filed against Dr. Rico Jacutin.

Yee, now 29, sued Jacutin for sexual harassment in 1996 and thereafter endured what her lawyers earlier called a "legal odyssey." She received on March 25 a copy of the tribunal's decision dated March 6.

Jacutin, against whom a number of other women filed similar charges in 1996, could not be reached for comment. His wife Suzy told the INQUIRER that he had yet to receive a copy of the tribunal's ruling.

Yee's lawyers, Reynaldo and Remedios Llego, said the ruling was final, making it the Philippines' landmark decision on the criminal aspect of sexual harassment.

Lawyer Beverly Selim-Musni of the women's alliance Gabriela said the decision was "the triumph of thousands of women victimized by sexual harassment."

The Sandiganbayan convicted Jacutin of violation of Republic Act No. 7877 (or the Anti-Sexual Harassment Act) in November 1999. He was sentenced to imprisonment for six months—the maximum penalty—and ordered to pay a P20,000 fine. He was also ordered to indemnify Yee P500,000 for moral and exemplary damages.

In the decision written by Associate Justice Jose A.R. Melo, the high court upheld Jacutin's sentence and ordered him to indemnify Yee P30,000 and P20,000 for moral and exemplary damages.

Explaining its decision, the high court said "the grant of moral and exemplary damages by the Sandiganbayan must be tempered to reasonable levels."

It added: "Moral damages are not

SCUPHOLDS/A13

AN ISRAELI soldier atop a tank guards the main square in Ramallah in front of a poster of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, who has remained trapped in his office since the siege began four days ago. REUTERS

Israeli tanks roll into Bethlehem

BETHLEHEM, West Bank—Israeli forces widened their offensive into the West Bank on Monday, briefly entering Bethlehem, occupying several other towns and continuing a sweep for militants in fully occupied Ramallah.

The tanks rolled into southern Bethlehem just before sunrise, stopping about 500 meters from the Church of the Nativity, built over the traditional birthplace of Jesus. Forces also moved into the surrounding villages of Al Khader and Beit Jalla, witnesses said.

A few hours after the incursion, the tanks left Al Khader, and they also pulled back from Bethlehem to patrol the edge of the town.

But witnesses said a total of about 40 Israeli tanks and armored personnel carriers had gathered on the northern edge of Bethlehem. Several buses carrying Israeli troops had also arrived and people were anticipating a new offensive, witnesses said.

Israeli forces imposed a curfew in Beit Jalla and occupied buildings that gave them views into Bethlehem.

In the major West Bank town of Ramallah, Israeli soldiers refused to let Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat leave his office for the fourth day. In a televised address Sunday night, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon branded Arafat "an enemy of Israel" responsible for a bloody series of suicide bombings

ISRAELI/A14

Swiss order frees more deposits of Marcos pals

By Donna S. Cueto

THE LIFTING of the freeze on Swiss bank accounts of alleged Marcos cronies has freed up as much as two-thirds of some $25 million (or P1.25 billion) in funds frozen since 1986, according to documents released by the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

The $17 million (or P850 million) released represents deposits in three accounts belonging to Geronimo Velasco, energy minister of the Marcos era, and Alfred de Borja and Carmelita Clavecilla.

The decision by the controversial Zurich district attorney and investigating magistrate Dieter Jann to lift the freeze was issued on Feb. 6 and, after an appeal was filed by the PCGG, reiterated on March 12.

Jann cited a lack of proof regarding the "criminal background" of the accounts and said the "absolute prescription" of the asset freeze had run its course.

Former Solicitor General Francisco Chavez told the INQUIRER that Jann's decision, as well as the non-action of the PCGG's Swiss lawyer Martin Kurer, "vindicated" his position that there was a "conspiracy" between the two to frustrate Philippine efforts to recover the Marcos funds.

He questioned Jann's move to lift the

SWISS A13

Fear grips once vibrant West Bank city

RAMALLAH, West Bank—This city used to be a Palestinian success story, the bustling commercial hub of the West Bank, top-heavy with academics and professionals.

On Sunday, two days after Israeli troops and tanks swept in, Ramallah looked as if it had been hit by a hurricane.

.Broken glass and shattered concrete crunched underfoot. The streets were dotted with the flattened wrecks of cars—some of them luxury models like BMWs—which had been smashed by advancing armor. Lampposts and signposts leaned at crazy angles.

Water gushed from broken mains, flooding across pavement chewed up by tank treads.

Israel's principal target so far has been the yellow-stone compound of Yasser Arafat, where troops punched

FEAR/A14

Netherlands legalizes euthanasia

THE HAGUE—The Netherlands officially became the only country in the world to legalize mercy killings in specific circumstances when a new euthanasia law entered into force on Monday.

The groundbreaking legislation passed by the Senate last year stipulates that doctors can perform mercy killings without the risk of prosecution if they adhere to certain "caution criteria."

Euthanasia will be allowed on medical recommendation on three conditions: that the patient's condition is incurable, that the patient is of sound mind and fully agrees to the procedure, and that his/her suffering is considered unbearable.

Doctors must consult a colleague to confirm that all the criteria are met before proceeding with euthanasia.

All mercy killings will be reported to special committees consisting of a legal expert, a doctor and an ethics scholar, who will review the case.

NETHERLANDS/A14

4-day workweek in gov't starts

'Less time at work means more time for family'

By Armand N. Nocum

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday continued to defend its "four-day workweek" program, with Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas saying it was more advantageous than its critics dared to admit.

Sto. Tomas said the program that officially started yesterday meant less time at work, which in turn meant more time for the family. "It's summer. Children are at home. It would be a nice opportunity to spend an extra day with them," she said.

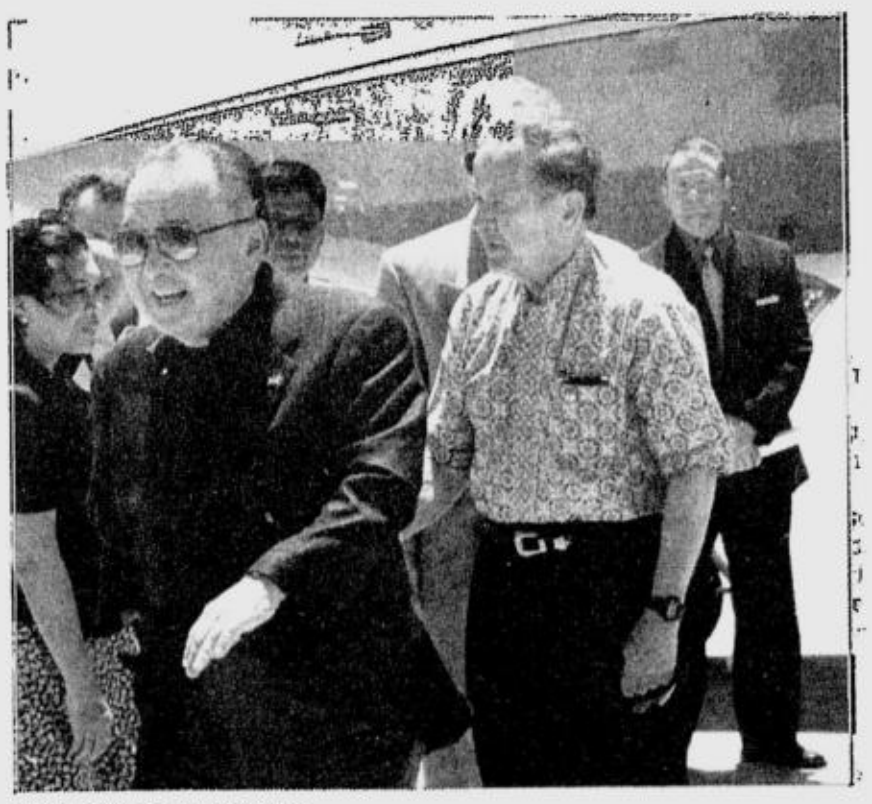
But Sen. Edgardo Angara urged the administration to scrap the scheme and instead act on a resolution filed by the Senate minority seeking a salary adjustment for the more than 500,000 government workers nationwide.

"The true gift (President Macapagal-Arroyo) can give government workers is a salary standardization scheme in all eight steps of the 35 salary grades in government, not (a shorter workweek)," Angara said.

The President issued last week Administrative Order No. 32 mandating a four-day workweek of 10 hours a day for government employees until May 31.

In Davao City, government employ-

4-DAY/A4



BALIKATAN REVIEW
American Senators Daniel Inouye and Ted Stevens arrive at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on a mission to assess the ongoing Balikatan war exercises in Basilan.

Second FRONT PAGE

LINKED TO COMMUNIST PURGE

Skeletons dug up in Quezon

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

MAUBAN, Quezon—Soldiers from the Southern Luzon Command have dug up a pile of human skeletons from a common grave, believed to be in one of the infamous killing fields of the New People's Army, in remote Sitio Bagyuan, Barangay San Miguel here, situated on the northern Pacific coast.

The soldiers led a group of journalists to what they said was a common grave of suspected victims of the NPA's "hysterical killings" dubbed as Operation Missing Link Part II.

The military men involved in the digging said that initially they thought that what they had found was an ordinary grave.

But when they started digging and finding piles of human skeletons, they knew they had stumbled upon on NPA "killing field."

The discovery is not a purely military operation. The troops were led to the place by woman resident of the area who said that for sometime now she has been experiencing paranormal behavior.

The woman in her 30s, who requested anonymity told newsmen how a female voice asked for her help so that "she and her companion could rest in peace."

"The voice asked me not only to pray for their souls, but to search for their grave," the woman said.

The woman's husband told the INQUIRER that, at first, he thought she was going insane.

"She even tried to choke our children to death if not for my timely arrival," he said.

He said he sought the help of a village quack doctor living near their place, which was close to the mass grave covered by thick vegetation and coconut and palm trees.

Under the local doctor's "spell," the woman again heard the female voice.

The couple, who has been residing in the area for three years, said they decided to approach the military and ask for help.

Col. Efren Orbon, Task Force Makiling commander, said they know the area had been a communist rebel camp during the 1980s.

"Even though I suspected the grave was a mass burial site of the NPA, I was still surprised when we discovered the piles of human skeleton," he said.

One of the skeletons was presumed to belong to a woman because of the pink stripes on the blouse it was wearing that was still intact.

The skeletons were found on top of one another, according to the military.

The woman from the area said the "female voice" told her the NPA was responsible for the mass murder.

The shirts had holes which, according to the military, were caused by bullets.

One of the T-shirts had the words "I love coconut" printed on it. The blouse had holes in the shoulder and other parts.

When the INQUIRER asked Orbon about communist allegations the military was just "planting skeletons, then blaming the NPA," for public consumption, the official, who is the top military man in the Calabarzon area, said, "we are just following the legal process as dictated by law."

"Simply put, *trabaho lang* (it's just a job)," he said.

Orbon said the skeletons are now in the custody of the police for proper laboratory examination.

Orbon declined to guess how old the human skeletons were. When asked how sure they were the killers were communist rebels, he said, "that's what the people have told us."

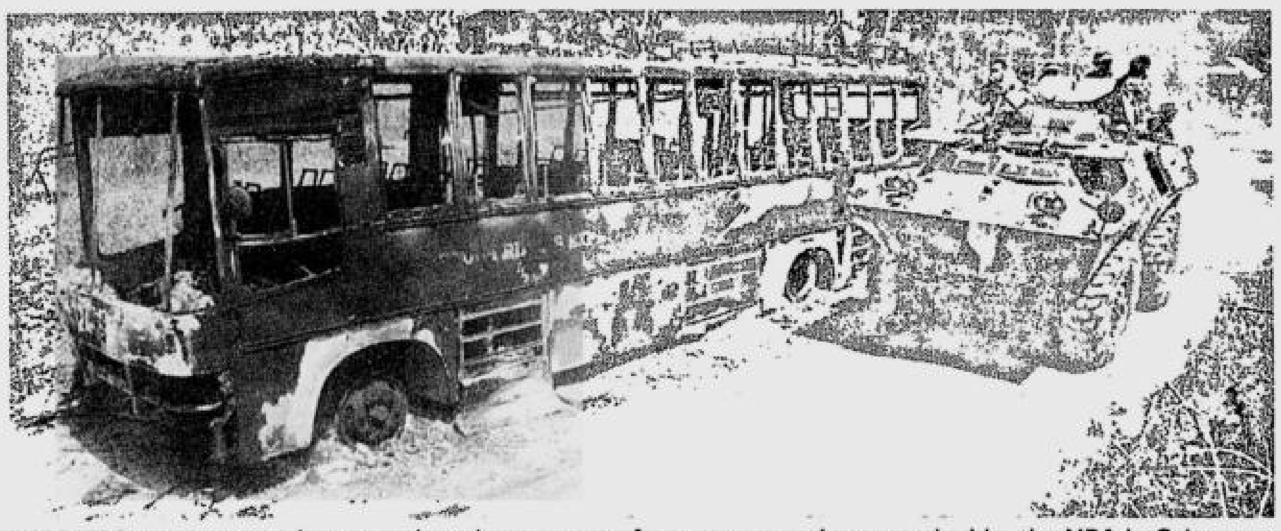
He added that the area was once a huge NPA camp during the Operation Missing Link period.

"There could be more of these graves, we are just waiting for the people to lead us to them just like this one," he said.

Last month, the military took some journalists to the grave of 58 alleged victims of bloody purges carried out by the armed group of the Communist Party of the Philippines in Candelaria, Quezon.

The CPP has admitted the revolutionary forces lost about a thousand cadres in the purges.

The communist leaders, who are now based in the Netherlands, had denounced the mass killings as "revolting and senseless and a grave violation of civil rights because of the unjust taking of lives of comrades resulting in the attendant devastation of the revolutionary forces."



SOLDIERS on an armored personnel carrier pass one of two passenger buses torched by the NPA in Cebu over the Holy Week, a sign of stepped-up offensives against the government. AP PHOTO/VIC KINTANAR

NPA Holy Week offensives kill 3

By Martin P. Marfil

THE MILITARY yesterday accused the communist New People's Army of violating its self-imposed ceasefire when it launched two offensives on March 29.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines, however, said the NPA actually initiated eight incidents between March 28 and 31, the period of the government's unilateral ceasefire.

The attacks resulted in the death of three persons and the wounding of three others.

According to data provided by the military, the NPA initiated three liquidation operations, two bus burnings, a harassment action and two encounters during the government's four-day ceasefire.

The offensives were carried out in Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao and were apparently mounted to commemorate the NPA's 33rd anniversary on March 29.

Only two of the casualties were identified—Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit member Emmanuel Quizon of the 2nd Camarines Sur CAA company, who was killed, and Pfc. Charlie Ampo of the internal security unit, Army intelligence security group, who was wounded.

According to Lt. Gen. Narciso Abaya, AFP deputy chief of staff, the incidents were an indication of the NPA's growth.

He said the NPA has been able to take advantage of the government's preoccupation with the different Moro rebel groups in Mindanao, the lack of Cafgus and the return of the NPA to its basic task, organizing.

"We reported earlier that based on certain parameters—like strength, number of firearms and influence in barangays—(the NPA figures) continue to rise," Abaya said.

"We have taken cognizance of this and we are confident as we start our (counter-offensive) we will check the rise in the NPA movement," he added.

The communist offensives started on March 28 when NPA units harassed a company of soldiers in Barangay Happy Valley, Soccoro, Oriental Mindoro.

This was followed by an encounter in Dolores, Quezon, where some soldiers clashed with 15 NPAs.

In both March 28 incidents, no casualties were reported.

The following day, an NPA liquidation squad tried to kill an intelligence agent in Barangay Ngan, Compostela Valley. This resulted in the wounding of the agent identified as Pfc. Charlie Ampo.

That same day, another NPA unit shot and killed Cafgu Emmanuel Quizon, a member of the Camarines Sur CAA company of the 42nd IB in Pasacao, Camarines Sur.

Two other civilians, both unidentified, were killed on March 30 when another NPA group killed them in the cockpit arena in Barangay Lamba, Legazpi City. A third unidentified civilian was also reported wounded in that incident.

In San Francisco, Quezon, that same day, a clash erupted when a group of soldiers from the 74th IB chanced upon a group of NPAs. No one was reported hurt when the rebels withdrew from the battle scene.

In Cebu on March 31, two buses belonging to the Rough Rider Bus Co. were burned down in separate incidents when its owner refused to pay "revolutionary taxes" to the rebels.

In Cebu City, the head of the government panel negotiating peace with the communists plans to bring to the attention of the National Democratic Front, the umbrella organization of the communist movement, the torching of the two buses by the NPA.

Secretary Silvestre Bello III said, however, the latest violent incidents would not affect the ongoing peace talks between the government and the NDF.

"We will just present to them our protest for these recent acts of violence. It cannot affect the peace process because the fact is there is no ceasefire between our government and the NDF," Bello said over radio station dyLA yesterday.

"So that we have to expect that once in a while incidents like these will happen," he added.

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Gov't probes Abu-Qaida money link

ABU Sayyaf guerrillas have been channeling ransom money to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said yesterday.

Perez said Philippine authorities are working to track the funds with the help of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation, which had alerted the government to Abu Sayyaf money being remitted to al-Qaida.

"That is what the FBI is telling us. The volume of money is apparently significant. We were told that perhaps money already in the hands of terrorists here is going toward Bin Laden. And I am referring to the Abu Sayyaf," Perez told reporters.

The Abu Sayyaf is the subject of joint US-Philippine military operations to rescue three hostages—an American couple and a Filipino nurse—the rebel group has been holding for 10 months and wipe out the bandit gang.

The extremists are believed to have collected over $20 million in ransom from kidnapping dozens of local and foreign tourists since 2000.

Authorities said the money was also used to buy modern firepower that helped the group carry out its criminal activities.

Perez did not elaborate on how Abu Sayyaf money was being funneled to al-Qaida, but he said local Muslims were likely being used to transfer the funds.

"There are many modus operandi. That is what we are trying to discover and we are going to hold meetings with (Bangko Sentral) and SEC (Security and Exchange Commission) officials," Perez said.

Chief state prosecutor Jovencito Zuño said remittances by the Abu Sayyaf to al-Qaida coffers was being done on a "regular basis."

"The (Philippines) is where the funds of terrorists come from. That's why the Philippines is the number one client of the FBI in this investigation," Zuño, who just returned from an FBI-sponsored anti-terrorism training in Quantico, Virginia, said.

FBI experts have been helping Philippine authorities trace the paper trail of the transferred funds, he said, adding local officials were having difficulty because of strict bank secrecy laws.

Perez said the FBI had tipped off Manila on the possible financial link between the terror network of the Saudi-born Bin Laden and the local Muslim Abu Sayyaf guerrillas operating on Basilan island. ***AFP, Reuters, Michael Lim Ubac***

Remains of 16 Dubai accident victims home soon

THE REMAINS of the 16 Filipinos who perished in the Dubai shipyard accident last Wednesday will arrive in the Philippines within the week, Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates Amable Aguiluz III said yesterday.

Aguiluz told reporters the Philippine Embassy was doing everything to assure the families of the skilled workers that their remains would be home soon.

The number of Filipino fatalities rose to 16 after four of the skilled workers, who were earlier reported missing, were found dead by search and recovery teams.

The four were identified as C.G. Silang, V.C. Gustilo, H.L. Sumanga and G.S. Luvero.

The personnel department of the Dubai Dry Docks identified the first fatalities as M.T. Sumagang, Rolando Romero, Jose Santos, Arturo Rodriguez, Ferdinand Velasco, Florante Mercado, Jose Consunji Dizon, Joseph Cayaban, Armando Canlas, Henry Sta. Maria, Sofio Bosbero and Arthur Pulido.

Five Filipinos who survived the incident are recovering at a Dubai hospital. They are Frederick Peña, Ernesto Beltran, Vicente and Ruben Debtian.

The DFA has assured the families of the victims the government would assist them.

The 16 were among the 26 workers killed when the floodgate of the dry dock they were working in gave way, flooding the area with seawater. The 10 other fatalities were also believed to be Asian.

Some 1,800 Filipinos work at the Dubai Dry Docks, the second largest shipyard in the world.

Labor Secretary Patricia Santo Tomas said over dzRH radio that 13 other Filipinos who were injured had checked out of hospital. She did not identify them, however.

"Starting tomorrow, our embassy and our labor attaches there will work for the repatriation of the bodies," Sto. Tomas said. ***Norman Bordadora, with an AFP report***

Chinook's data recorder found

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A US salvage team has recovered the flight voice and data recorders of the ill-fated MH47-E Chinook helicopter that crashed off Zamboanguita town in Negros Oriental last month, a US military spokesperson said yesterday.

Maj. Cynthia Teramae said the find could help the US military determine the cause of the crash that killed all 10 US servicemen aboard when the aircraft plunged into sea on Feb. 22.

The flight voice and data recorders reportedly contained at least 20 minutes of data. The data would be analyzed in the United States.

The device, which was retrieved last week, could withstand sea pressure at a maximum of 20,000 feet.

"It was recovered from about 200 feet below the water at the crash site," Teramae said.

Although US authorities would not comment on developments in the recovery operations, Teramae said "we have already recovered a considerable amount of the aircraft."

With the recovery of the flight voice and data recorders, Teramae said the salvage crew is concentrating on finding the bodies of the two US servicemen who remain missing.

A few days ago, the salvage team, using sophisticated deep-sea equipment including an unmanned probe, recovered the remains of five of the victims.

In a related development, a local emissary told the INQUIRER that American hostage Martin Burnham had been moved by his captors to Sulu and turned over to Mujib Susukan and Ghalib Andang.

"But the two female hostages are still with the main Abu Sayyaf group in Basilan," the emissary, who was earlier tapped by the government to work on the release of the hostages, said.

Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon confirmed the transfer of Martin to Sulu, according to the emissary.

But Servando said based on information, the hostages are still in Basilan and are being held by Abu Sabaya and Hapilon.

Servando said technical and tactical information supplied by spy planes indicated that the three hostages were still in Basilan. ***Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

S. Orejana Sr.; 92

SILVESTRE Orejana Sr., father of ABS-CBN's Gene Orejana, died on March 29 at the age of 92.

He is survived by his children Loida and Bobby Sr., Mary Stella, Rebecca, Jun and Annie, Gene and Weng, Francis and Christine. His remains lie at the Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes, Iligan City. Interment will be tomorrow.

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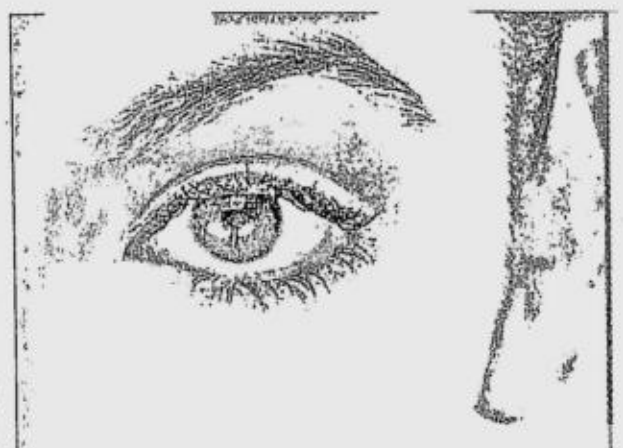
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Sandigan bayan clears Imelda, 3 others of malversation raps

By Volt Contreras

THE SANDIGANBAYAN has acquitted former first lady Imelda Marcos and three other officials of the defunct Ministry of Human Settlements of two counts of malversation filed against them by the Aquino administration in 1987.

Also cleared by a special division of five justices last Wednesday were former MHS deputy minister Jose Conrado Benitez, assistant manager for finance Gilbert Dulay and assistant manager for regional operations Roberto Zagala.

Marcos served as MHS minister from 1978 to 1986, during the regime of her late husband, Ferdinand Marcos.

In a 49-page decision penned by Associate Justice Narciso Nario, Fourth Division chair, the justices voted 4-1 to dismiss the charges, citing the prosecution's failure to present sufficient proof of the respondents' guilt.

Nario and fellow justices Teresita de Castro, Ma. Cristina Estrada and Nicodemo Ferrer voted for dismissal. Associate Justice Rodolfo Palattao was the lone dissenter.

The cases charged Marcos and company with conspiring to defraud the government of P97.95 million that was part of the P100 million special fund allotted to the MHS's Kilusan Para sa Sariling Sikap project.

The court ruling granted the demurrers of evidence filed by Marcos, Benitez and Zagala.

The prosecution presented only one witness, COA Auditor Iluminada Cortez, who headed the government team that reviewed the books of the MHS.

Government lawyers argued that Marcos, in a November 1984 letter to her husband, declared the Sariling Sikap fund "confidential," thereby exempting it from COA scrutiny.

But the court noted that the prosecutors relied on "inadmissible hearsay" to back their claim the accused had failed to account for the funds.

The ruling also observed that the prosecution's evidence was "replete with discrepancy" as to the charge that Marcos et al. misappropriated the funds allotted for the purchase of new vehicles for the MHS and its beneficiaries.

Cortez's testimony, it added, should have been corroborated by other witnesses.

As to the 72-year-old Marcos, the court said the evidence against her only showed that she "applied to have the funds treated as classified," and not that she was party to the approval and disbursement of the money by her deputies.

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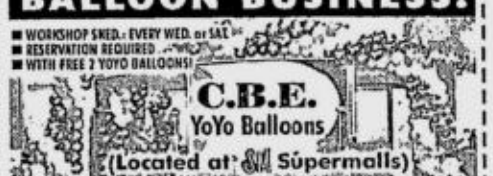

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Palace mulls probe of electricity bills

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

MALACAÑANG is considering a review of the power purchase adjustment (PPA), a major item in electricity bills.

President Macapagal-Arroyo was annoyed when, on her weekly radio program yesterday, she was repeatedly asked why the PPA was even higher than the rate for consumed electricity.

She said the PPA had been adjusted according to the foreign exchange rate and "has been there since (President Ferdinand) Marcos' time."

"Did you think that was started during Macapagal's time? Oh, no!" she snapped at an interviewer. "It's good that I pointed that out because people thought I just invented it."

The President said the Energy Regulatory Commission could find out if the PPA can be incorporated into the basic rate.

She said this was a good time to review the PPA because the commission would also review the petition of the Manila Electric Co. for a power rate increase.

But she added, still angry, "I am not telling (the ERC) to review it because they are not under me. I said this might be a good time."

For all that, members of the militant labor group Kilusang Mayo Uno yesterday massed in protest in front of the Meralco branch at Edsa-Kamuning, Quezon City, to demand the removal of the PPA from the electricity billing.

KMU spokesperson Sammy Malunes said the protest action was only the first of a series of demonstrations that his group would hold in the next few days.

He said the KMU would troop to various Meralco payment centers all over Metro Manila to inform the public of the power firm's petition for a power hike.

According to Allan Eugenio, spokesperson of the Meralco Employees and Workers Association, the PPA collected from consumers accounts for the power supply purchased by Meralco from power producers such as the National Power Corp., Quezon Power and Meralco's sister company, First Gas Power.

The KMU and Bagong Alyansang Makabayan are to hold protest actions tomorrow at the ERC hearing on the Meralco rate hike petition.

Malunes assailed the President for "doing nothing at all to prevent the power rate hike."

If the Meralco petition is approved, residential consumers who use up more than 50 kilowatt hours (kwh) monthly will be billed less, or roughly P7.34 per kwh, compared to the P11.78 per kwh for those who consume less than 50 kwh (or the so-called "lifeline customers").

"This simply means that the biggest consumers get more discounts and the small consumers end up the biggest losers," said Maitet Diokno-Pascual, president of the Freedom from Debt Coalition.

Kalayaan's Harry Pineda blamed the administration for the bungle, saying that it even twisted arms to have the power bill enacted.

"The (Macapagal administration) is clearly not pro-masses," Pineda said. "In fact, at the rate her policies are going, she is killing the poor, the ordinary citizens."

"This is just outrageous," Sanlakas president Wilson Fortaleza said of the proposed rate adjustments. "What are they trying to tell the people, consume more electricity so you can save?" ***With reports from Agnes E. Donato, Gerald G. Lacuarta and Andrea Trinidad-Echavez***

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Pinoy Chuck Norris?

From page A1

Chuck Norris of Delta Force."

The President said Filipino troops participating in the RP-US Balikatan training exercise were much improved, and cited the INQUIRER photo of combined American and Filipino Special Forces dangling from a US Chinook helicopter as proof that "our soldiers are indeed getting better in new practices and exercises."

Ms Macapagal—who watches movies regularly, sometimes bringing family members with her to local movie theaters—compared local soldiers in training to Norris, a martial arts expert specializing in action movies.

Norris helped popularize the Delta Force, an elite US military unit, through movies he made in the early 1990s.

The President made the comparison during her weekly radio interview when she gave an update on the Basilan hostage crisis.

She said that aside from new skills, the Philippine military now enjoyed "better intelligence, care of American intelligence equipment."

"That's why more members of the Abu Sayyaf are being captured and encounters are increasing because they are now able to find the Abu Sayyaf," she said.

But even as the President lauded US participation in Balikatan, Senate President Pro Tempore Manuel Villar questioned American readiness for jungle warfare.

It has been some time since US forces have fought in any jungle conflict, he said, and this American weakness is showing.

Villar was reacting to reports that an unmanned US spy plane crashed off the coast of Zamboanga City on Sunday, the second aircraft accident to mar the military exercises. On Feb. 22, a US MH-47 Chinook helicopter went down in deep waters off Zamboanguita, Negros Oriental, killing all 10 American servicemen onboard.

"That's why (the Americans) may even be learning from their experience here," Villar said.

He noted that the last time that the US forces had engaged in jungle warfare was during the Vietnam War three decades ago. "And their most recent experiences have all been in desert scenarios," he added.

This may be the reason it has "taken them so long to hunt down the Abu Sayyaf and rescue American missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham and Filipino nurse Ediborah Yap."

"Besides, it's hard to (look) for three persons in such a big province (as) Basilan," he added.

But in her radio interview, the President was upbeat, saying the presence of US military personnel had boosted investor and tourist confidence in the country "because they know that we're doing what must be done even if it's unpopular at the start."

"Isn't it true that our stock market improved and that there are now more investors?" she asked.

She said that was why she decided to move the traditional Balikatan training from Central Luzon to Basilan, the main refuge of the Abu Sayyaf.

"That's my decision and I'll stand by it," she said. ***With a report from Rocky Nazareno***

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, April 2, 2002
Octave of Easter

1st Reading: **Acts 2:36-41**
Gospel: **Jn 20:11-18**

Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she bent down to look inside; she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head, and the other at the feet. They said, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She answered, "Because they have taken my Lord and I don't know where they have put him."

As she said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not recognize him. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?" She thought it was the gardener and answered him, "Lord, if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and remove him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him, "Rabboni"—which means, Master. Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me; you see I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them: I am ascending to my Father, who is your Father, to my God, who is your God."

So Mary of Magdala went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord, and this is what he said to me."

Commentary

Mary of Magdala is always the first of the women disciples to be named. She was a woman whom Jesus had healed of a serious illness and ever since she had followed him, not only to the foot of the cross but further still, as we see today. Do you want to know and follow the risen Christ? To share the mission of making Christ known? Observe the angels and Jesus. They started with Mary herself, her pain, her concern. They did not explain things or try to set her right. Jesus just spoke her name, and that was enough. She knew him then. To awaken faith, it wasn't a matter of speaking with enough learning, but with enough love.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (EVIDENCE)—Admissibility of ante-mortem statements—Under Rule 130, Section 37, the requisites for the admissibility of ante-mortem statements are: (1) the statement concerns the crime and surrounding circumstances of the declarant's death; (2) at the time it was made, the declarant was under the consciousness of an impending death; (3) the declarant would have been competent as a witness had he survived; and (4) the declaration was offered in a criminal case for homicide, murder, or parricide in which the declarant was the victim. Dying declarations are considered an exception to the hearsay rule since they are made *in extremis*, when the declarant is at the point of death. For then, the motive to commit falsehood is improbable and the inclination is only to speak the truth. In the present case, all four requisites for the admissibility as a dying declaration of the victim's statement that accused-appellant was his assailant are present. When the victim was stabbed, he immediately staggered to the nearby hospital. When his mother met him at the hospital, he immediately told her that it was accused-appellant who stabbed him. He made the statement in contemplation of an approaching death. Nor is there any question that had the victim survived, he would have been competent to testify in court, as there is no evidence to the contrary. Finally, the dying declaration was in fact offered in a criminal prosecution in which the declarant was the victim.[Citations omitted.] [Justice Gonzaga-Reyes, Third Division, People v. Bituon, G.R. No. 142043, September 13, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

4-day workweek in gov't starts

From page A1

ees will embark on the program starting today. But the reactions to the 7 a.m.-6 p.m. schedule are mixed.

"We have no choice but to comply because the order of the President is mandatory in nature," a City Hall employee, who requested anonymity, said, adding that a 10-hour working day would be very tiring.

Other employees said only those with money to spend for vacations would enjoy the longer weekends.

"Not all government employees are that rich," another employee said.

Angara said the shorter work schedule for government employees would "neither boost domestic tourism nor impact well on efforts to perk up the lethargic national economy."

He said the rationale that shorter workweeks would boost tourism was inappropriate because government workers would rather save their money for tuition and other expenses in preparation for the school opening in June.

"Whatever expendable income there is, the money will always go to the education of the children," he pointed out.

Angara and the nine other opposition senators have filed Joint Resolution No. 8 urging Malacañang to issue a new wage order for government workers.

Both public and private

Sto. Tomas said that while the two-month program would be more beneficial to couples working in the government, private-sector employees would benefit as well.

She said that under the program, transactions in government offices—including applying for residence certificates, filing of social security forms, and payment of taxes—could still be made even after 5 p.m., the traditional end of the working day.

Addressing fears of a rise in power consumption, she said this was actually expected to increase in government offices with the prolonged use of air conditioning because of the summer heat.

Sto. Tomas said the traffic would also improve because of the smaller number of people reporting for work on a given time of the day.

"This is really a win-win situation for both the government and private sectors," she said.

However, she clarified that those who preferred not to take the four-day option could continue to work the regular five days weekly for eight hours a day.

Sto. Tomas also said government hospitals and health, public order, defense, security, protection, and emergency service agencies were excluded from coverage of the administrative order in the interest of public service.

Asked if there were plans to extend the scheme after May, she said the Cabinet had yet to discuss the matter.

Contingencies

Sto. Tomas stressed that heads of offices should ensure that there would be enough employees to carry on the burden of work in their respective units on Mondays and Fridays.

In Davao City, Acting Mayor Luis Bonguyan said he would hold department heads and chiefs of office liable for those employees who would not report on the required working hours of 7 a.m.-6 p.m.

Bonguyan said half of the total work force of a department should report on Monday and the other half on Friday, to ensure the smooth conduct of government business. ***With reports from Rocky Nazareno in Manila; and Ayan C. Mellejor and Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Cement tariff temporary–GMA

THE GOVERNMENT is not keen on imposing a permanent tariff on imported cement.

President Macapagal-Arroyo made the assurance yesterday, saying the tariff currently imposed was only a "safeguard measure" against imported cement flooding the market.

"It's a safeguard tariff. That's not the same as (a protective tariff) because protection is permanent. A safeguard is only during an import surge," she said.

Local cement manufacturers had complained the unhampered importation of cheaper cement would soon drive them out of business.

Malacañang last week supported their position and rejected the recommendation of the Tariff Commission to lift the 20.6 percent tariff imposed on every bag of imported cement.

The President said without the tariff, cheaper imported cement would only crowd out locally manufactured cement and would not bring down domestic prices.

This happened last year, she said, when a construction revival increased the demand for cement.

Dona Z. Pazzibugan

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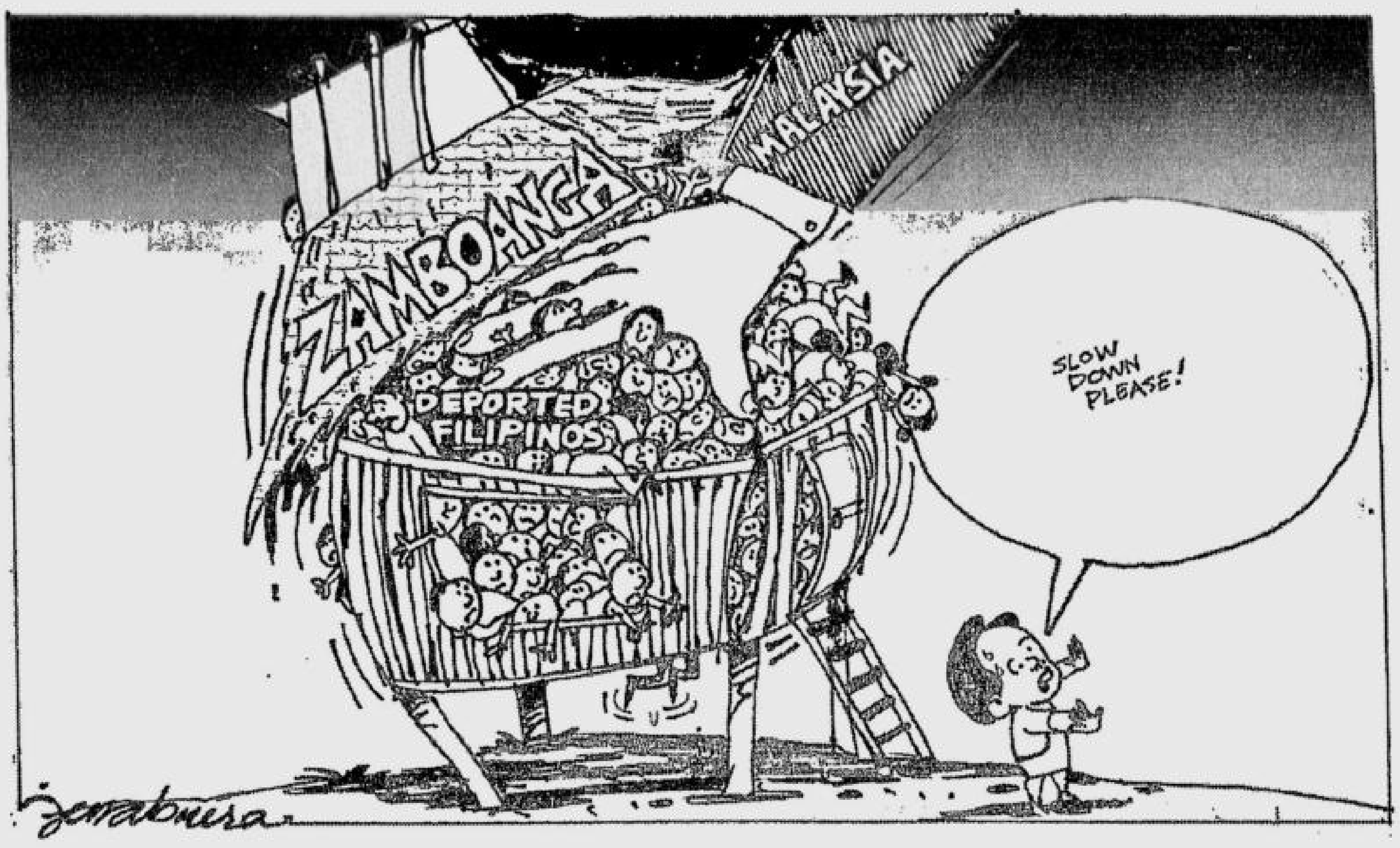

Religion as theater

EDITORIAL

LAST week people had various ways of observing the Holy Week. Some left on trips abroad, to be away from the problems and aggravations in our country. Some drove or flew to the popular resorts—Baguio, Tagaytay, Boracay, Dos Palmas, etc.—where they divided their time between religious rites and holiday relaxation. Others attended retreats and spent most of their time in prayer and reflection.

One unique retreat was the Holy Week Experience on the Hill held at the "Bukal ng Tipan" in Maryhill Compound in Taytay, Rizal, under the leadership of Fr. Mark Lesage, CICM, of Las Piñas bamboo organ fame. It featured a Last Supper on Holy Thursday, discovering the "Peter" in the participants as they gathered around bonfires in the evening, carrying a cross to the top of the hill at noon of Good Friday, and identifying with the disappointments of the disciples of Jesus at Emmaus on Saturday morning.

The Holy Week Experience featured religion as theater—it was a total spiritual, esthetic experience. But more than that, it was a wholistic experience that engaged not just the soul but also the mind and the body of the participants. There was the reading of the Holy Scriptures, which include some of the finest writing in world literature. There was the singing of spiritually uplifting songs. There were the homilies that discussed religion not in the abstract but gave down-to-earth tips for improving one's relationship with God and his fellowmen.

The participants carried their crosses to the hill and then offered them to Jesus at the foot of a large cross. There they uttered heartfelt prayers, some of which brought their colleagues close to tears. There was the dramatization of the passion of Christ, His betrayal by Judas and His denial by Peter, with the priests and participants playing various roles. In the evening the participants bowed down or prostrated themselves and prayed before the Cross under an old tree in the garden.

A reflection was held at the "Ina ng Tipan" at the amphitheater as a breeze made the tall bamboos sway and creak and as water burbled out of a manmade *bukal* (spring). Candles in glass holders and a full moon provided the only light in that moving experience.

The climax of the night's events was the Rite of Reconciliation. Father Mark said that the Tagalog word for the sacrament was more meaningful—"Pagbabalik Loob." He said that this meant the return of the "*loob*" (will, heart) to God, in the same way that the Prodigal Son returned home to his father after wandering and living a dissolute life.

It was another touching experience as the participants stood in the balcony, gazing at the heavens above ("The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork") and looking at the glittering lights of the metropolis below. All the while "nature" music played. Then Father Lesage administered absolution and embraced the retreatant in a symbolic act of forgiveness. They, the sinners, the people who had momentarily forgotten God, had all "come home."

The rites and rituals were not without a social and political content. For instance, in the General Intercessions, the participants interceded for "all our public officials, (that) may they hear Your voice inviting them to help build Your Kingdom on earth and not oppress or cheat the people." They also prayed for the nation, "that we may find the light of day and emerge from our poverty, may we be wise and responsible, may we be free and concerned for each other's welfare, especially for the future of our children."

All in all it was a spiritually uplifting and rejuvenating experience. Next year we would recommend it especially to government officials and politicians who need to reflect at one time or another on what they can do for God, country and their fellowmen.

Dr. Viktor Frankl, founder of the Third School of Viennese Psychiatry and author of "Man's Search for Meaning," said that an existential vacuum often exists because some people have not found the meaning of life. He said, "Sometimes, the frustrated will to meaning is vicariously compensated for by a will to power, including the most primitive form of the will to power, the will to money."

In the daily rush to making a living, we tend to concentrate on physical and material things and forget about the spiritual side of our being. A Holy Week retreat can make us reflect on and improve our relationship with God and with our fellowmen. It can make us reflect on the meaning of our lives.

Simplistic thinking by the simple-minded

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

DURING the Holy Week, I discovered a solution to the perennial traffic congestion in Metro Manila. But first I will tell you how I discovered it.

On Holy Thursday, I had an appointment in Manila at 10:30 a.m. On ordinary days, I allot two hours for car trips from Quezon City to Manila. Half of the time, I overshoot that. Knowing that traffic would be light on Holy Thursday, I left Quezon City only one hour before the appointed time. I made it in 30 minutes of leisurely driving. I arrived too early and had to wait 45 minutes for the person with whom I had an appointment (he was late).

There was no traffic so I floated through the streets with the greatest of ease like the daring young man on the flying trapeze.

The next day, Good Friday, the streets were practically deserted and I whizzed from Quezon City to Makati in 25 minutes. The streets were practically all mine, so I drove to all the busy places I had wanted to go to on ordinary days but couldn't because of the traffic. I drove to Baclaran, to the Coastal Road, to Roxas Boulevard, Escolta, Chinatown, Recto, Divisoria, Rizal Avenue to Monumento (saw that poor Bonifacio and his Katipuneros really have to move to a better location), to Valenzuela and back to Monumento, then to Edsa and back to Quezon City. It was very stressful to drive through these streets on ordinary days, but on Holy Thursday and Good Friday, driving anywhere was very relaxing.

So, I thought, that's the solution to the traffic congestion. Make every day Holy Thursday and Good Friday.

Ha, ha, ha. Funny and preposterous? No more than the bright idea of Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon (which President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo shares) for a four-day work week so that workers will have a three-day weekend. With a regular long weekend, people will have time to go to tourist spots and thus, boost tourism in the country, right?

Such simplistic thinking can only be hatched by simple minds. It's as simple as one plus one equals two. And for the simple-minded (what to you call the simple-minded—simpletons?), making every day Holy Thursday and Good Friday is even better than a three-day weekend. Workers will have a seven-day weekend and will have even more time to travel to tourist spots and make tourism the number one industry of the Philippines.

Not only will that make people in the tourist industry very rich and make Gordon a hero, it will also solve the traffic problem in Metro Manila.

Of course, that will transfer the traffic to the provincial highways and make bankrupt other companies that need workers to work for them, and leave workers no money to spend, but let somebody else solve those problems. Gordon already did his share to solve the tourism problem and I already did my share to solve Metro Manila's traffic problem.

They only needed simpletons to solve them.

* * *

By the way, if Mehan Garden is obliterated from the map after all, blame Gordon. Manila Mayor Lito Atienza said that he was all set to move his City College from Mehan Garden to the old Ateneo campus in Intramuros. And Ateneo de Manila school officials have agreed to prepare the curriculum for it and run it.

But Gordon wrote Atienza that he could not allow the City College to be built on that lot because a five-star hotel will be built there by Spanish investors. And although the City College controversy was a very big running story in media, Gordon did not make his letter to Atienza public.

This is very strange because only four-story buildings are allowed by law to be built inside Intramuros. Besides, the Spanish investors had already announced that they would not push through with the hotel plan. So what was in Gordon's mind?

Atienza, alas, has gone back to his original plan to build the City College on Mehan Garden.

And what happened to the environmental NGOs trying to save the Mehan Garden? Why did they not lobby Gordon as hard as they did Atienza? Why did they suddenly shut up and disappear?

* * *

On the brighter side of Manila, Atienza revealed that both banks of the Pasig River will be developed into a clean, well-lighted promenade with sidewalk cafés and street entertainers. Escolta may be closed to traffic on weekends like Tokyo's Ginza to give way to more open-air cafés and bazaars.

May I also suggest that other side streets in the Quiapo-Sta. Cruz area (like Carriedo, Evangelista, Raon, maybe even Echague), be closed to traffic also so that that sidewalks vendors on the main streets like Rizal Avenue, Quezon Boulevard and Recto can be transferred there.

Atienza also said that the old Metropolitan Theater will be rehabilitated and reopened (is the problem with the Government Service Insurance System over?) This is good news. Two big murals by National Artist Fernando Amorsolo are inside it.

May I suggest that the shows there be those that the masses like, such as stage shows, dramas and musical variety shows. These were the shows that sustained the theaters on Rizal Avenue and Echague during the Japanese Occupation.

The Cultural Center is too highbrow for the *masa*. Ballets, operas, classical concerts and Shakespearean plays do not appeal to them. And you have to ride in a car to get there. The Metropolitan Theater, on the other hand, is beside public transportation routes—LRT, jeepney and bus. And even if you come in a private vehicle, there is the new controversial parking building at the back.

And with the sidewalk cafés along the Pasig River, theatergoers won't have to go very far for snacks. In fact, if you put tables and chairs under the trees of the adjacent Arroceros Forest Park (but don't harm the plants), that would make a very delightful and popular garden café.

Births and deaths

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I JUST made a curious discovery over the past Holy Week. That's the fact that the two religious events we celebrate with enormous zeal are the birth and death of Jesus Christ. Those are represented by the Sto. Niño and the Holy Cross.

I've known for some time that the Feast of the Sto. Niño was celebrated with ferocious passion in many parts of the South. Tacloban has the Sto. Niño for a patron saint, and marks its day with lavish preparations. If I remember right, Imelda Marcos became the *hermana mayor*, a sponsor of the occasion, at one point during martial law, and outdid even herself in Imeldificity in proclaiming to the world the wonders of the Christ-child.

What I did not know, however, until a few days ago was that the religious fervor for the Sto. Niño also burned like summer's heat in Metro Manila. In Quiapo, near the church, you'd find vendors selling miniature clothes and combs for the Sto. Niño. Apparently, many devotees treat their icons with meticulous care, making sure the Sto. Niño's hair is combed and its robes changed regularly. One foreigner who had stopped to look was startled to learn what they were for. She wondered aloud to her companion why anyone would want to treat their God like a Barbie doll.

Well, different folks, different strokes. Different bods, different gods. I myself have always wondered why people should stroke their guns like they were stroking the hair of their children. Or why they should light candles at the feet of gold, or money.

The other religious event, well, Holy Week was full of it. The Pasyon remains a ritual that emits much psychic resonance among Filipinos, notwithstanding the assaults of commerce and secular life. It's a marvel in fact seeing the two coexisting in ways that are peculiar to this country. Incongruity is this country's middle name. The incongruous has become so normal, it's the congruous that seems odd and out of place.

My kid and I found ourselves at the *riles* in Angeles City last Friday afternoon after wandering around with no particular destination in mind. The *riles*, for those who do not know it yet, is called that because railroad tracks used to run through it. Those tracks are barely visible now, but the tracks of a glorious Kapampagan culinary past are still very much so. The *riles* is a street that *sisig* built: There's a whole row of stalls, all advertising their expertise in making *sisig*. The flies and the heat notwithstanding (or probably because of them), people flock to the street particularly in the late afternoons for swigs of their favorite brew and bites of their favorite *pulutan*.

Only a few stalls were open that Friday afternoon. Ten years ago, none would have been so. In a nearby house, a woman was wailing the strains of the Pasyon, her faceless voice issuing from the pit like a gaseous emanation from the earth at the end of a hot day. A tricycle driver below, who was examining a race-track leaflet intently, began imitating her unconsciously, droning in singsong style. A group of people ambled by, several men wearing black hoods, swinging their glass thongs right and left, flailing at their bare backs, which had turned crimson. A couple of men were dragging fairly heavy crosses. They were trailed by women and children, who were probably their families, thrust deep in sorrow. One child was trying out the thongs on his back, but noticing our amused stares had gotten embarrassed and pulled down his shirt.

Nobody greatly minded them. Smoke was wafting thickly from a barbecue pit as they passed by, as another boy busily marinated the iron plates that sizzled there. I do not know that the hooded men who passed by smelled it. It would have added to their penitence. Nobody noticed the collision of the worlds, Sisyphus and *sisig*, penitent and peddler, chant and merchant. They were the elements of one picture, flowing into one another like grace into cleansed hearts, like beer into parched throats.

I do not know what all this means. On one side, I suppose there's something to be said for religion not being an abstract thing for us. God is not something "out there," as the "X Files" puts it, and as he looms for other believers, a transcendent being beyond reach of desperate supplication. He is something right here, a being probably "like one of us," as Joan Osborne suggests, open to plea and entreaty. God is not accessible only through prayer and meditation, He is accessible through incantation and ritual. He is woven into the fabric of our daily lives. He hangs around the *kanto*, in the barbershop or betting station. He is the child who demands love without reservation, He is the savior who takes the consequences of our folly and whose forgiveness we ask in sudden bursts of realization and contrition.

On the other side, I suppose it's also indicative of the national predilection for births and deaths, for beginnings and endings, but not for the things that come in-between. We do not lack for epic things that we began, as many writers have pointed out—not least we mounted the first anti-colonial struggle in Asia, and from plebeian origins—but we never carried them out with the persistence of titans. And we do not lack for epic tyrannies that we ended—the two Edsas are proof of it—but we never built a new world from their ashes. I remember a line from one of Frank Sinatra's song that says, "The loving is easy, it's the living that's hard." It's pretty much the same thing with us. The bursts of grand passions are easy, it's the nuts and bolts that are hard.

But surely there's more to the calendar than Christmas and Lent?

Establishing 'RP presence' in France

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

PARIS—A recent news item in the Sunday Times of London spoke about the health problem of Prime Minister Lionel Jospin, the Socialist candidate in France's presidential elections later this month. It reminded me of the controversy over the state of health of Joseph Estrada when he was running for president in 1998. Recall how all kinds of rumors floated about Erap's health; at one point talk circulated that he had liver cancer arising from a lifelong love for the bottle. This encouraged his archrival, Lakas' Jose de Venecia, to challenge him to a duel on the treadmill, a duel that never materialized.

In Paris, there are speculations about the health of Jospin, 64, following the disclosure that he has an over-active thyroid which is being treated. The French media are generally sympathetic to Jospin who is said to have a very slight edge in the polls over French President Jacques Chirac, 69. Jospin's thyroid problem can no longer be ignored after the normally calm, professorial-looking PM described Chirac as "an old man" exhausted by power and too "passive" to govern the country effectively. And he has kept up the personal attacks.

* * *

As the Sunday Times pointed out, generally French politicians avoid attacking each other personally, and while their health problems and love affairs are talked about in the cocktail circuit, these are largely ignored by the French press, unlike in the US and in RP where they are grist for the mill. The most famous secrets nursed by the French press for a long while were the prostate cancer of the late President Francois Mitterand and the existence of his illegitimate daughter, Mazarine. Jospin's personal attacks against Chirac cost him a sizable drop in popularity rating among voters over 65 years of age. It also is said that he became personal because he has at times failed to take his anti-hyperthyroid medicines, causing him to project a Dr. Jekyll-Mr. Hyde personality.

Chirac, on the other hand, after being called "an old man," has sought to put more bounce into his steps. But while Chirac may not have health problems like Jospin, there are speculations that should he lose, he might be investigated for his alleged involvement in an illegal fundraising scheme for the party.

The presidential race is too close to call and few at this stage want to predict the outcome of the April 21 election and the May 5 run-off. But as the Times said, "Chirac can only hope that Jospin keeps on forgetting to take his medicine."

* * *

My husband and I and our Paris-based friends, Jun and Lilia Opena, were invited to a Filipino dinner by our ambassador to Paris, Hector Villaroel, in the beautiful and spacious embassy residence on the fashionable Avenue Foch in the 16th Arrondissment, one of the choicest districts in the French capital. The apartment has been home to our envoys in Paris for some time now. Villaroel, who has become very fluent in French, was a contemporary of mine in UP in the early 1960s, and though he graduated a year after I did, we were classmates in a number of liberal arts courses. Now he is doing well in his concurrent jobs as Philippine ambassador, permanent delegate to the Unesco in Paris and member of its executive committee. Our UP batch is very proud of him as well as others who have served in the foreign service, among them Ambassador Susan de Ocampo-Castrence and the late Ambassador Alice Corvera-Palacios.

I last saw Hector in 1989 in Geneva where he was the No. 2 man in our UN mission there. He invited me and another UP colleague, Anicia Echavez-Siy, for after-dinner drinks in his apartment which he had furnished with his exquisite Chinese collection acquired during his stint in Beijing. In Paris, his first ambassadorial post, Hector wanted to showcase Philippine culture and he shipped at his own expense antique furniture pieces he inherited from his parents, as well as his collection of Ming jars and vases. The apartment is big enough to accommodate sit-down dinners for as many as 60 people in 10 small round tables or a medium-sized cocktail reception.

* * *

It was an evening of recollection as well as of what lies ahead in RP-France relations. Our top envoy recalled how he went to see the officials at the French foreign ministry the day after President Macapagal assumed office last Jan. 20, 2001, to ask if they had any problem accepting the new administration. They told him no; all they wanted to know was that it was legitimate, democratic and constitutional.

The President is going to Spain on a state visit later this year, and I asked Villaroel whether there was any plan for her to come to Paris. He said that the problem was that two Philippine presidents before her, Cory Aquino and Fidel Ramos, had visited Paris, and in the world of diplomacy, a return visit by the French president was long overdue.

Villaroel is preoccupied with establishing what he calls "the Philippine presence in Paris," especially after the spate of negative publicity created by the hostage-taking by the Abu Sayyaf of two French nationals and the fleeing to the Philippines of a French multinational exec who had absconded with a huge amount of money. The kidnapping has effectively closed any prospects of the Philippines' attracting tourists from France for the moment, but Villaroel is optimistic about the strengthening of economic ties between the two countries. This is because a high level trade and economic mission last November headed by ex-President Ramos has, in turn, triggered the visit to Manila of a top-caliber French trade mission this November.

Death

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IN THE HOLY Land, in Israel and Palestine, where Christ Himself lived and preached the message of salvation, dying and coming back to life that all who believe may have eternal life, people are dying every day. Suicide bombers have killed nearly 400 Israelis and Arabs so far, while the occupation of Palestinian zones and retaliation attacks have resulted in the death of 1,100 Palestinians, 200 of them in March alone.

In Britain, the nation has been plunged into mourning, though perhaps not of the same convulsive spectacle as that attending Princess Diana's passing, with the death of the "Queen Mum," who at 101 had seemed a nearly immortal symbol of the best English virtues.

In Hollywood, friends, family and fans look back on the careers of two storied entertainers: director Billy Wilder and comedian Milton Berle.

While in the Philippines, we have just lost a national artist with the death of composer Lucio San Pedro, who wrote classic pieces of music that have become so much a part of our culture that we never even stop to think about the artist who created them.

And yet, in the funny workings of popular culture and media obsession, the death that lies front and center in our consciousness these days is that of Rico Yan. An actor and TV star, role model for the youth and by most accounts a most charming, pleasant and decent man of 27, he was well on his way to achieving his dreams and even paying back some of the favors to his country and people.

A definite loss to the entertainment industry, yes, but in the scheme of things and weighed against the bios of other "celebrities" who died around the same time he did, certainly not enough justification for the heat and fervor of the attendant coverage.

* * *

CERTAINLY, the way he died, suddenly, inexplicably, in the immediate wake of a hit movie that is still showing in the theaters, adds to the drama of the moment.

It is neither right nor natural that a person in the prime of life should die suddenly of natural causes. Yet that is what *bangungot* does, killing men (most of its victims have been men) in their 20s and 30s in their sleep, presaging its arrival only by what some have described as "moans" or "groans" or "heavy snoring" from the victims.

Experts who have studied *bangungot* have given it a scientific name: "sudden unexpected nocturnal death syndrome," which tells us really nothing by way of cause or nature. Autopsies performed on some victims (most of whom are Southeast Asian in ethnicity) have found links to pancreatitis, swelling of the pancreas, which may cause death upon bursting, which indeed took place with Rico Yan. Folk beliefs attribute the deaths to nightmares or the visitation of night creatures, frightening or terrorizing the victims to death. Others say it is caused by eating heavy meals or drinking heavily just before going to bed.

Some materials I had read sought to link *bangungot* with over-consumption of *patis* or fish sauce, a condiment common to all Southeast Asian cuisines.

Whatever the cause, *bangungot* continues to baffle and mystify both doctors and the public, and Rico Yan's death can only increase and deepen the myth and mystery of this syndrome.

* * *

BEYOND the manner and timing of his death, however, Rico Yan's passing seems to have driven home once more, as it did with the heinous murder of Nida Blanca, the realization that death comes unbidden, striking anyone, young or old, rich or poor, famous or obscure, a young man just starting out in life, or a royal who lived through the most historic moments of the last century.

Still, we are hard put to explain why fans would line up outside the La Salle Greenhills grounds in the heat of day during the hottest season of the year, standing and waiting patiently for hours, just for the chance to be given a glimpse of their "idol" lying in his coffin.

Neither can we explain why we would spend much of Easter Sunday glued to the two rival major TV networks, switching from one to the other, grabbing at every tidbit of news, views, tearful reminiscences and even more lachrymose lamentations of a grieving girlfriend.

Perhaps his celebrity has much to do with it, and his sheer omnipresence not just in movies and TV shows, including a daily noontime variety show, but also in ads on TV, print and even billboards. If TV has become a necessity for every household, then the personalities it has created have become members of every family, familiar and maybe even beloved.

* * *

FORTUNATELY, Rico Yan lived such an upright, clean and unassailable existence that the very public mourning for him has on the whole taken on the flavor of a love fest. His friends and colleagues and those who follow the erratic progress of our show-biz world have uniformly only praise for his person. As a fellow performer on "Magandang Tanghali Bayan" said of him, there wasn't a mean bone in his body.

One shudders at the thought of the fervid coverage had Rico Yan died of a drug overdose, or had been shot by a jealous lover. And yet, on Good Friday morning as rumors of his death floated, the notorious texters were on the job, floating speculations of a drug-related death. Which just goes to show, I guess, that more than celebrity, the public loves controversy. But there's more than enough of that to go around in the Nida Blanca case, and maybe we should be grateful that Rico Yan left the way he did.

The Church's agony

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L.Harper

NO one who grew up Catholic and learned to love the Church can feel anything but distress at the scandals unfolding in the United States involving pedophile priests and the subsequent cover-up by the Church hierarchy. Our Lady's predictions to Father Gobi in the late 1980's that the Church would be rocked by a crisis of faith brought on from within by her own priests is now lamentably fulfilled. For the faithful, the sense of betrayal is devastating: the image we grew up with of the priest as a holy man on a pedestal is gone, besmirched by allegations of sexual abuse and official cover-up.

Neither do we believe that only members of the American clergy are engaged in deviant criminal behavior. A recent news reported the resignation of an Austrian archbishop in 1998 and more recently a Polish bishop on similar charges of sexual perversion. There are enough restricted documents concerning cases against priests in the Archdiocese of Manila archives to make you realize that foreigners aren't the only ones with something to hide.

According to Time's cover story (4/1/2002), cardinals take a vow before the pope to "keep in confidence anything that, if revealed, would cause a scandal or harm to the Church." In that case, the collusion of Church authorities like Cardinals Egan and Law to keep the public ignorant of these crimes was mandatory. But once a priest or a bishop loses his moral imperative, how can he speak authoritatively on what the faithful can or cannot do? What is offensive in the eyes of God?

The Catholic Church in this country is still a product of the friar mentality or, if you prefer, a feudal mentality of the 19th century, where the priest spoke and the faithful followed. You are not encouraged to question doctrine and by inference Church policy on the assumption that your faith would be endangered if you do. In the same vein as the remark of Cardinal Dario Castrillon Hoyos concerning the scandals and the Pope's reaction—"The pope is worried over peace in the world"—is Lipa Archbishop Guadencio Rosales' statement on the issue of preservation of ecclesiastical heritage: "He has other concerns of greater import. Ours is an archdiocese of the vibrant faithful, and not of stones." Which is no answer at all. It merely sidesteps the issue. Consider that the Committee on Monuments and Sites of the National Commission on Culture and the Arts has been trying to present a proposal to the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines for a lecture to seminarians on the validity of preservation and proper methods since the late 1980's and gotten nowhere.

Despite the depredation visited on any number of religious structures and complexes since then, there are still no reactions. The parish priests are answerable to their bishops who act as though they were a law unto themselves. There is a committee on Church heritage but it can only suggest. This is, of course, a very minor issue compared to the crisis facing the Church today even if I haven't heard that the local hierarchy here has responded officially. (I certainly hope that they don't take the tack that this is only happening in America.)

The archbishop further states that "we should not be a static Church." By that I guess he means the Church did away with the Latin Mass (even as it approved Masses said in Ilocano, Ilonggo, Kapampangan, Cebuano, etc), allowed priests to go around in Levis and penny loafers and introduced the "Peace be with you handshake." In the face of such obduracy, many Catholics merely choose to ignore Church teachings on homosexuality, birth control, divorce and remarriage, and if we go by the statistics kept by the Philippine General Hospital, the taboo on abortions as well.

Even if the rest of the Catholic world were to step into the modern world, it is doubtful that the Church in the Philippines would follow suit—at least not immediately. It probably has to be dragged, hollering. Can you imagine support groups for parents of lesbians and gays or even meetings of lesbians and gays in our parishes? It is claimed that anywhere from 30 to 50 percent of priests in America are gay. Have we any idea what the percentage is here? The Pope's spokesperson, Joaquin Navarro-Valls, is quoted as saying that "people with these inclinations just cannot be ordained," a stand that I personally and many other Catholics I'm sure do not agree with. What most thinking Catholics would prefer, I'm sure, is for the hierarchy to address problems rather than to claim there aren't any.

It seems, for instance, that the archdiocese is only now beginning to do something about the fact that there are no retirement homes for secular priests unlike the religious orders which provide for their members. The materialism engendered by such a policy would be understandable if only we weren't, it seems, the third biggest donor to Rome. If the family of a parish priest cannot take him in when he retires and the archdiocese has no provisions, then the rumors that certain prelates engage in business (including selling off ecclesiastical art or using the weekly collection for that purpose, as one priest from Mindanao claimed) becomes more credible. The problem is that the Church has never admitted the problem and discussed it openly.

This is not to say that there aren't any good priests left (or bishops and archbishops, for that matter) or that many of them aren't holy. It is the public perception, however, that whenever there are uncomfortable questions or situations that require humility in accepting their failings, the hierarchy will start by ignoring you, and failing that, it will stonewall until you give up.

The next best thing

YOUNGBLOOD

Takashi

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

WHEN I read a Youngblood article last year about this 23-year-old woman and her constant battle with the world over her 17-year-old lover, I just had to laugh. In relief. You're not alone, woman, I said to myself. Though my problem has nothing to do with age, it definitely is considered against Nature's plan and has sent me into sad, not even terribly imaginative cartwheels of pain and emotional disembowelment. My boyfriend is gay.

And I'm a neurotic loon. I knew from the start, but it was his being exactly that which made me fall in love with him, plus the fact that he closely resembled my immediate ex. So when we met, I was immediately drawn to his wit, charm and smile.

At first it was a girl-gay-best-friend thing, but as the months progressed, it was an impossibility for me to be away from him even for a single second. It was trouble, I knew. I sensed it, I watched it spiraling close, but I never ran for cover. I couldn't. I wouldn't. I just let it run me over. And if the chance to do it all over again comes, I would run to it headlong for the second time. Gladly.

You see, I'm a woman who is passionately attracted to crazy, demented ideas, pain and all sorts of emotional struggles. I hate the norms and traditions of society and love to test the limits of my spirit.

This time, though, I got burned and got more than what I bargained for. I fell in love deeply. Just like what the poster on my bedroom wall says: "***Anything less than mad, passionate love is a waste of my time.***" And what else would you call this, this bizarre love story between Michael and me?

Michael and I started as best friends. We talked and laughed a lot, compared notes on boy stuff, shared intimate secrets and cried on each other's shoulders when the world got tougher. We would have one-on-one drinking sessions that lasted into the wee hours of the morning, and at the end of these sessions, we would be so drunk that we couldn't find our own nose and would end up crying over the silliest of things. He would listen to every single detail of my last eight broken affairs and make asinine suggestions on how to kill my immediate ex.

He would call me at the office almost every day, sing me songs over the phone and wait for me every night after work. Sometimes he would even do my hair and make-up.

When I quit my job, I started hanging out at his house almost every day. There I watched TV, helped him wash the dishes and his clothes, ate noodles and climbed every tree in their backyard. Once I helped him put sequins on the gowns of his beauty pageant *alagas*. I slept on his bed and plotted and schemed against imagined enemies.

The thing is, Michael was, and is not, a saint himself. He was into drugs. He has had several affairs with men. He is an incorrigible drinker and a compulsive liar. He graduated from high school at age 22 because he thought it was more important to go to Manila, where he worked for three years in a parlor. And he must have one of the shortest tempers on earth.

Despite all that, I kissed him on New Year's Day at two in the morning, under the moon and the stars, with only the waves serving as witnesses to an electric, shocking moment.

That one kiss changed everything in our lives. Of course, I exaggerate, but hey, it's close to that. Because after the eight relationships I had with men, only this one shook me to the core of my bones. I swear that I heard fireworks that night when we kissed, and it was not because it was New Year, but because, well...the inevitable happened.

He cried that night. He told me to get the hell out of his life because he was scared to death by the depth of his feelings for me. He was gay, and then I came along and changed everything. He had stopped looking at other men and even tore down the pictures of nude men in his room. He dreamed of me every night, and I often invaded his consciousness. He hated the feeling of being lost, confused, scared. He hated me.

But the next day, he changed his mind and said we could try being more than friends.

But for the whole of 2001, ours was a relationship punctuated by terrible fights every two days. Then it got worse. I guess love got in the way. We became oversensitive to each other's jokes and always, without fail, managed to get into each other's nerves. Our personalities clashed. (Why is it that you only find out about this when you're already way in too deep?) And our deep-seated insecurities, doubts, fears came to the fore and always somehow interrupted our happy moments.

It was as if the inner child in me had taken over my body. Michael, on the other hand, seemed to have rediscovered acting and became a master of operatic theater.

We were constantly fighting over the dumbest things. After each fight, I would sulk in a corner and question my importance in the scheme of things called the universe. Michael would drink himself to death while waxing poetic and act out scenes from "Les Misérables" ("*...on my own pretending she's beside me,*" etc.).

We broke up four times in a period of three months. And in every episode, the night was loaded with I-hate-myself-and-I-want-to-die crying spiels, complete with movie dialogues ("I love you, which is why I am letting you go," and so on). But three days later, we would be holding each other's hands again.

We broke up last August because I deemed it necessary. I need not go into the gory details—it was just so sad. The fights just got more and more terrible and ridiculous until I felt that I had to give him up.

We cried for three days straight, and we still cry every time we talk about it. We just couldn't be together, even if we died trying, and believe me, we really tried. The funny thing is, until now we still love each other to pieces, as evidenced by the fights and the *tampuhans* and the petty jealousies that mar our relationship until this very day. We still hold hands and tell each other "I love you." And we were together for the New Year, exactly one year after our first kiss, that fatal kiss that sealed our fate to be together—for a time.

I still haven't found a replacement (although there are two rich yuppies waiting in line) because to my mind, there is only one Michael. There can only be one person who makes me want to be a better person. Only one who can make me smile at the end of the day and at the beginning of it.

To my mind, there can only be one mad, passionate love in my lifetime.

Takashi, 23, has a bachelor's degree in anthropology from the University of the Philippines. She used a pseudonym lest her family know about the affair and "annihilate" Michael.

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Experiment with a flawed law

THE PHILIPPINE Alliance of Human Rights Advocates (Pahra) condemns the decision of the Macapagal administration to bring back executions by lethal injection in August for two kidnap-for-ransom convicts. Pahra believes this is yet another instance when government policy was influenced by pressures from different sectors calling for a quick solution to rising criminality. In spite of her earlier pronouncement that in principle she is against the death penalty President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's propensity to put political expediency over principles has again reared its ugly head.

Two years after the implementation of RA 7659, the Death Penalty Law, and after seven executions, statistics show the crime rate has even increased. There goes the myth of deterrence.

It is frustrating to note that in this raging debate for and against the death penalty the Macapagal administration refuses to admit that a credible and effective criminal justice system will deter crime more than fear of the death penalty.

Why is the President not pressuring the police to clean up their act? To improve their investigative and intelligence capacities? Battle corruption in their ranks? Do away with illegal methods? And to respect human rights?

In light of this, Pahra calls on Congress to immediately repeal RA 7659 before the Macapagal administration executes more convicts. We do not need to sacrifice more lives to experiment with a flawed law.

Moreover, we do not need to sacrifice more lives to build up President Macapagal's image and enable her to stay in Malacañang beyond 2004.

—SANTOS A. LAMBAN, secretary general, Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates (PAHRA), 10-B Malingap St., Teachers' Village-West, Diliman, Quezon City

LETTERS PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

An old story about lust for power

JOSE Rizal, during his time, foresaw the rising power of the United States and, short of saying that the Philippines should seek entry into the federal system, thought that the Philippines should align its future with that of the United States.

During the following decades, a group of prominent leaders from the Visayas formed the Federalista Party which advocated the idea of statehood under the US federal system. But the movement faltered and the Federalista Party faded from the picture when a charismatic leader from Baler said that he preferred a government run like hell by Filipinos to a government run like heaven by Americans.

It is now clear that what Manuel Quezon really wanted was his own turf, and not what was good for our country. In the same manner as some characters like Nur Misuari and others want their own turf and not what is good for the people. It is the same old story—greed for power.

Today, we have a government run like hell by Filipinos. Politicians, of which we have an oversupply, pseudo-leaders of the self-seeking variety, all wanting turf and tearing at each other with no strong and credible leader at the top to consolidate the power of governance. What we do have is a fragmented leadership—as fragmented as the 7,100 islands that comprise the Philippine archipelago. Present day events all attest to the reality of a government run like hell—just the way Quezon said it would be.

Looking back, what would have happened if the Philippines became a state under the US federal union? Look at Alaska and Hawaii today. Even the island of Guam which is now a US protectorate enjoys enviable peace and prosperity. But then, the star of Baler would not have wanted that.

Nationalism? Brother, do not go strutting around pretending to be great and strong when you cannot even protect your own backyard. You cannot eat nationalism. We are now in the age of internationalism and globalization.

We would like to see the day when a strong and credible leader, imbued with a sense of honesty, integrity and decency, comes around to save our beloved Philippines from the enemies of our people: the power-hungry politicians who subvert their official positions for personal gain, the self-styled leaders whose not-so-well-hidden agenda is to grab power and create their own turf.

—AUGUSTO PACIS, 21 St. Lawrence St., Lahug, Cebu City

Revisiting 'bangungot'

THE INQUIRER quotes PNP Director Edgar Aglipay as he shared the autopsy findings for the young actor Rico Yan: "According to the doctors, it's acute hemorrhagic pancreatitis resulting (in) cardiac arrest. In short, he died in his sleep, *parang* (like) *bangungot*."

Derived from the Tagalog words "*bangon*" (to rise) and "*ungol*" (to moan), *bangungot* refers to a nightmare, which is seen as potentially fatal. Filipinos believe that one is more predisposed to *bangungot* if he goes to bed after an excessively heavy meal. The Star, which carried the front-page headline, "Bangungot kills Rico Yan," quoted "a doctor" as saying that Yan "ate so much seafood during the party, downed with drinks."

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

So just what's involved with *bangungot*? I thought we might want to start by looking at what "Merck Manual," a medical book, has to say about pancreatitis.

The pancreas is a small gland which secretes digestive enzymes and the hormones insulin and glucagon. Sometimes there can be problems if the pancreatic duct is blocked, preventing enzymes from flowing out. If the enzymes accumulate inside the gland, they begin to destroy the pancreas itself, which then causes the inflammation or pancreatitis. In severe pancreatitis, the person's blood pressure could fall drastically, causing shock and death.

There are two main causes for blockage of the pancreatic duct: gallstones and alcohol. The gallstones cause blockage by obstructing one of the muscles that allows the pancreatic duct to open. Prolonged alcohol use, on the other hand, takes its toll by clogging the small tubes that lead to the pancreatic duct. "Merck Manual" notes that an acute attack of pancreatitis "may be precipitated by an alcoholic binge or by an excessively large meal."

"Merck Manual's" explanation seems to offer a perfect fit with traditional theories about *bangungot*. But wait, an alcoholic binge usually causes pancreatitis only with prolonged use of alcohol, extending over several years.

"Merck Manual" says that "many other conditions can also cause acute pancreatitis," which is intriguing if we apply this to *bangungot*. As early as the 1950s, the US Navy's medical teams were already looking into *bangungot* because of cases involving Filipino sailors. The US Navy reports suggested the deaths were due to pancreatitis resulting from the Filipino salty diets. Investigations of similar deaths among Thai workers in Singapore in the 1990s also proposed dietary explanations, although in this case the doctors said it was a nutritional deficiency, some pointing to thiamine and others to potassium.

In the 1980s, researchers at the University of the East said that autopsies of *bangungot* victims showed congenital defects in the heart. Again, it's interesting that the Star quotes "another source" who said Rico Yan's heart was discovered to have *lamat*, or cracks.

I've always felt you can't explain *bangungot* simply as pancreatitis, or a heart problem. There are other cultures—Thai, Cambodian, Japanese—with similar conditions, and it's striking that in all of them, just like the Philippines, most of the nightmare victims are male. This pattern raises questions about relying on a dietary explanation alone, i.e., given that our women also take salty diets, and go on eating binges, why don't we have as many reports of *bangungot* deaths among them?

An important clue to explaining these sudden deaths comes with the fact that many of the victims are away from home, e.g., Filipinos working in the US Navy, Thai workers in Singapore and Hmong refugees in the United States. This strongly suggests a stress factor that might trigger the attacks.

Combine stress with the gender factor and you can see how different factors might converge in a deadly combination. It's possible some people are in fact predisposed to *bangungot*, maybe because of congenital problems in the heart. The University of the East researchers said the defects affect the way electric impulses are transmitted through the heart. A person with such problems may seem healthy and might in fact be unaware of the heart problem. If that person is male, and is under stress, a drinking or eating binge could then trigger the fatal sequence of events in the pancreas and in the heart, or both.

I am by no means suggesting that what I described was what happened with Rico Yan.

Bangungot is much more complex, maybe even acting as a generic label for different conditions. There's still much to unravel about *bangungot*, and the answers will come from both medical and cultural research. I would still look into the angle of alcohol and diet. I think it's important to look at the balance of sodium (salt) and potassium, which do affect many vital functions in the body, including those of the heart and the circulatory system.

From the cultural angle, it's interesting that Filipinos do recognize that some people seem more prone to *bangungot*, and suggest that such predisposed individuals should not sleep alone because if they do get an attack, their companion can wake them up. We also have the idea that if you do get *bangungot*, you should exert all efforts to move, even if only a finger or a toe. Such folklore may in fact be popular versions of social support and stress management that could save lives.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

Denial made by Tonton's grandparents

THIS refers to the news item titled "'They're taking away my baby,' cries mother of Baguio boy here" published last March 11, 2002.

The fifth paragraph of the story quoted me as saying that the report (referring to Tonton's begging on the streets) "was fabricated."

Please be informed that my letter to the INQUIRER on the case of Jenston "Tonton" Diaz stated that "based on the report of our social worker from our DSWD-CAR, it was Tonton's grandparents who denied that Tonton has resorted to begging in Baguio streets. They further claimed that the begging issue was 'made up' by people with whom they had personal disagreements in the past."

Likewise, the Department of Social Welfare and Development continues to monitor Tonton's case so that the appropriate assistance can be provided to him and his family.

—SUSAN B. ARGEL, director, public affairs and liaison service, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City

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The WORLD
Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Muslim meet split over suicide bombers

KUALA LUMPUR—Muslim countries were split over whether to condemn Palestinian suicide bombers as terrorists Monday at the start of a major Islamic conference on terrorism.

Fault lines appeared immediately as the Palestinian representative disagreed with Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, the meeting's host, who said that suicide bombers killing Israeli civilians should be regarded as terrorists.

"It is not necessary to condemn the suicide bombers, because we have to take into consideration the reasons behind somebody willing to lose his life," Palestinian Foreign Minister Farouk Kaddoumi told reporters at the conference.

Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories is "the highest and worst kind of terrorism, and the human being, if he sacrifices his life—there must be a reason," Kaddoumi said. "The reason is state terrorism."

Deputy Foreign Minister Ivica Misic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, chief of his country's anti-terrorism team, disagreed.

"I don't care about race or religion," Ivica said. "I agree that if a person kills or harms a civilian he is a terrorist, no matter how noble his struggle may be."

An attempt to paper over the divisions with a resolution condemning Israel for state terrorism was passed unanimously, but the conference risked bogging down under the old dilemma: When is a terrorist a freedom fighter?

Mahathir, a vital US ally in the campaign to crack Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, called for agreement that any attack on civilians—by the Sept. 11 hijackers, Israel's Army or Palestinian suicide bombers—be labeled terrorism.

"Muslims everywhere must condemn terrorism, once it is clearly defined," Mahathir said. "Bitter and angry though we may be, we must demonstrate to the world that Muslims are rational people when fighting for our rights and we do not resort to acts of terror."

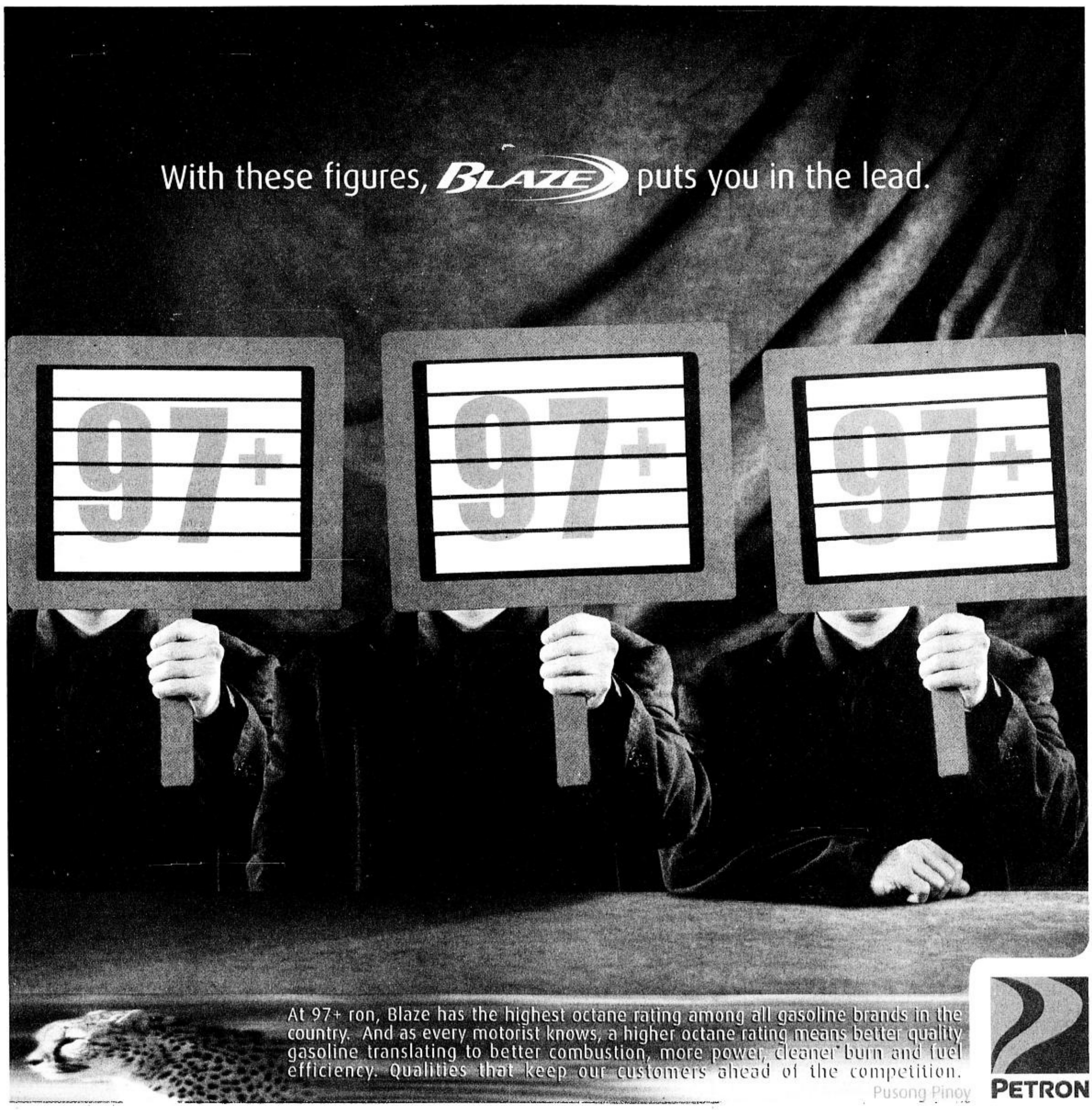
Mahathir, Asia's longest-serving leader, hopes that the three-day meeting of the 57-member Organization of the Islamic Conference will lead to a United Nations convention to define terrorism and an accepted way to hold perpetrators accountable, including governments.

Malaysia has been pushing for an international conference since Sept. 11, which Mahathir said had hurt the image of Islam.

The gathering of foreign ministers and other officials follows escalating bloodshed in the Middle East. Palestinian suicide bombings killed 15 Israelis on Sunday and Israeli troops deepened their invasion of the West Bank.

Malaysia, which has urged participants to refrain from emotional rhetoric so the meeting will be seen as positive by the non-Muslim world, resisted Arab pressure to include a condemnation of Israel in the main declaration, which should be issued Wednesday.

In a compromise, a separate statement was adopted urging the UN Security Council to provide protection to Palestinians "and apply deterrent sanctions against Israel." *AP*



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Royal family mourns Queen Mum's death privately

LONDON—The coffin of the Queen Mother Elizabeth rested Monday in a small stone chapel at Windsor Castle where the royal family privately mourned the beloved matriarch before she is taken to lie in state in London.

Troops in a dozen locations around the country and in the colony of Gibraltar brought out ceremonial cannon to fire 41-gun salutes in honor of King George VI's widow, who died at her Windsor home Saturday afternoon, aged 101.

Flags flew at half-staff and thousands of admirers of the enduringly popular former queen signed condolence books that were opened Sunday at royal palaces and homes around the country.

Bouquets of bright spring flowers, with fond messages attached, were placed at St. James's Palace and the adjacent Clarence House, which had been the Queen Mother's London home since her husband's death in 1952 and the accession of her daughter, Queen Elizabeth II.

Admirers lined up at St. James's Palace to sign one of the 16 books of condolence. More than a thousand visitors had signed the books by lunchtime Sunday and the figure had more than doubled by mid-afternoon.

Matthew Shearer, holding his two young daughters by the hand, said it was a historic moment. "It is not just her death, " he said, "but the change, the passing of an era."

The State Bell at St. Paul's Cathedral rang for an hour Sunday afternoon to mark the Queen Mother's passing. The bell is tolled only for the death of a member of the royal family, a serving dean of the cathedral or a senior national figure.

The queen, who has lost her mother and her only sister, Princess Margaret, within seven weeks, led her family in prayer Sunday evening at the foot of her mother's coffin.

All four of her children, Princess Margaret's son and daughter, Prince Charles's sons and other close relatives filed solemnly into the private chapel for a short and simple evensong service of prayer and remembrance.

The coffin, draped in the Queen Mother's red, gold and blue royal standard was carried to the chapel on Sunday from Royal Lodge, her house in Windsor Great Park, where she first lived as Duchess of York before her husband was unexpectedly thrust onto the throne in 1936 by the abdication of his brother, King Edward VIII.

The coffin will remain at the simple Royal Chapel of All Saints until it is moved to the Queen's Chapel at St. James' Palace on Tuesday. On Friday it will be moved to the medieval Westminster Hall at the Houses of Parliament to lie in state until Monday evening, April 8. There the public will be able to pay their respects before the Westminster Abbey funeral service at 11:30 a.m. April 9.

After the service, the coffin will be moved by road to Windsor for a private committal service and interment in a side chapel at the magnificent St. George's Chapel, within the precincts of Windsor Castle.

The Queen Mother will be laid to rest alongside her husband in the George VI Memorial Chapel at St. George's. At the same time, the ashes of Princess Margaret will be taken from the royal vault in St. George's and interred with her parents at the George VI chapel.

The royal family, preparing for a second funeral in as many months, will remain in mourning until April 19, after a memorial service for Princess Margaret. The queen's only sister died Feb. 9 at age 71 after years of illness and was cremated after a private funeral at Windsor.

The Queen Mother, who had been at the center of public life for more than half a century, was as popular at the end of her life as she had been as the queen consort of George VI during World War II. *AP*

SIX pallbearers carry the coffin containing the body of the Queen Mother, draped with her personal standard, from her official residence at Royal Lodge, in Windsor Park, to the nearby Royal Chapel of All Saints on March 31. AP

COMPARISON OF PHILIPPINE CEMENT CASE TO US STEEL CASE

IT APPEARS everything has already been said about the denial of the Tariff Commission on the application for safeguards under the Safeguard Measures Act (RA 8800) to effect a fair and level playing field with cement imports. But before we write off the billions of pesos in investments in the cement industry if the TC recommendations are not reversed, before its thousands of workers are listed as mere statistics to add up to the growing number of workers in local industries displaced by unrestricted imports, we ask the indulgence of the public to look once again at the facts and figures, and be the judge.

Compare the cases of the Philippine cement industry and the United States steel industry [to compare with the findings of the United States International Trade Commission, the 2000 and 2001 cement industry figures are compared with the average figures of three years preceding the import surge (1996-1998)]:

The TC ruled that the local cement industry has not suffered any serious injury or threat of serious injury from the surge of cement imports despite the following:

1. There was a "recent, sudden and sharp" (as found by the TC) increase in Philippine cement imports by as much as 290.99% when compared to the pre-import surge average (1996-1998);
2. The constant and rapid rate of increases in the market share of imports from 1.48 percent in 1998 to 4% in 1999 to 13.1% in 2000 and to 21% as of September 2001. When compared to the average of the three year period prior to import surge (1996-1998), the market share of cement imports increased by a staggering 327.18% in 2000 and 597.73% from January to September 2001;
3. When compared to the average 1996-1998 figures, local production in 2000 declined by 10.30%, and capacity utilization decreased by 24.48 % in 2000 and 27.67 % in 2001;
4. Net income losses incurred by the manufacturers totaled P5.3 billion in 2000, or a decline of 375.41%; and
5. Compared to the average of employment figures for 1996-1998, employment declined by 33.37% in 2000 and 44.76% in 2001.

Meantime, the United States has imposed up to 35% tariffs on imported steel for the next 3 years based on the following:

1. When compared to 1996-1998 figures, steel imports into the US increased by only 21.10% in 2001 (290.98% increase for cement in the Philippines);
2. When compared to 1996-1998 figures, the market share for steel imports increased by 21.77% in 2001 (Imported cement increased its market share by 597.73 % in the Philippines for January- September 2001);
3. US steel production ***increased*** by an average of 6.93% (Philippine cement production ***declined*** by 10.30% in 2000)
4. The US steel industry capacity utilization decreased by 5.14% on the average (while Philippine cement's capacity utilization declined by 27.67 %);
5. Net incomes of the US steel industry decreased by 355.77% (375.41% decrease for cement in the Philippines); and
6. Employment in the US steel industry decreased by 4.58% (while employment in the Philippine cement industry declined by 33.73% in 2000 and 44.76% in 2001).

IT COULD have been a "win-win situation" if the TC has not disregarded these facts and figures, and at the very least maintained the P20.60 per bag provisional tariff earlier granted by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

For when the provisional tariff was in effect, the prices of both local and imported cement have stabilized from P145 per bag to about P125 to P135 per bag in view of a more level playing field between imported and local cement that at least guaranteed equal chance to regain lost volumes for local cement.

In fact even with the provisional tariff in effect, about 3.8 million bags of imported cement continued to enter the country, indicating that importers could still profit decently in a level playing field environment. As a result, government earned about P78 million in safeguard tariffs that under Safeguards Law will be used to help other ailing local industries.

With a healthy local industry that can compete fairly with imports, consumers as well as the construction industry are assured of stability in supply and prices of cement.

** average injury indicators of the three years prior to the surge of imports (i.e. – 1996 to 1998) are compared to years during which the surge occurs (2000 and 2001) when available.*

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Al-Qaida leader

WASHINGTON—Pakistani authorities have handed over to the United States a man thought to be the biggest catch yet in the war on terrorism: Abu Zubaydah, a senior al-Qaida leader believed to be leading an attempt to reconstitute the group in Afghanistan. US and Pakistani authorities think the man is Zubaydah after several of his former associates identified him from photographs, a US official said Sunday. He would be the highest-ranking leader in the terrorist organization to fall into American hands since the Sept. 11 attacks. "All signs point to the fact" that one of the men captured by Pakistani authorities in raids last week is the terrorist leader, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. The man was shot several times by Pakistanis as he tried to escape one of the raids, the official said. He has been receiving medical treatment, but his current condition is unclear, the official said. He was transferred to US custody over the weekend. *AP*

More aftershocks

TAIPEI—Two moderate earthquakes shook eastern Taiwan and triggered landslides Monday, a day after a powerful tremor killed five construction workers at a high-rise building. The quakes, of magnitudes 4.8 and 4.5, centered at sea about 10 km off Ilan, a coastal town 150 km southeast of Taipei, the capital, the Central Weather Bureau said. No injuries were reported in the landslides, police said. The quakes were among more than 100 aftershocks registered following Sunday's tremor that registered magnitude 6.8, the bureau said. The US Geological Survey estimated the tremor higher, at 7.1. *AP*

Still on free fall

BUENOS AIRES—On the eve of a visit from the International Monetary Fund, Argentina's government received a fresh set of figures showing its economy remains rooted in its four-year recession. Despite some optimistic recent statements by the government, figures released Sunday by CAME, an Argentine business chamber representing small and middle-sized enterprises, showed that sales nationwide had fallen between 40-60 percent in March compared to a year earlier. The study was released before members of an IMF team arrive in Buenos Aires on Monday for a two-week mission aimed at clarifying what President Eduardo Duhalde's government needs to do to receive further aid from the international lending agency. *AP*

Colombia violence

BOGOTA, Colombia—Colombian clerics refused to be silenced by the assassination of an archbishop, taking to the pulpits this Easter weekend to rail against the violence thars and candidates in recent congressional elections. "The expressions this weekend have been very clear in denouncing the violence, the death, the kidnappings," Archbishop Alberto Giraldo, president of Colombia's Episcopal Conference, said. "We're telling the violent ones that their ways are wrong," he said. Colombia's civil war pits two leftist rebel groups against an illegal right-wing paramilitary army and government troops. The rebels and the paramilitaries finance their fight through illegal drug sales. Roughly 3,500 people are killed in the fighting every year. *AP*

160 seats for women

KABUL—Organizers unveiled plans Sunday for the 1,500-member "loya jirga," or national grand council, that will convene in June to establish Afghanistan's new government. They set aside hundreds of council seats for women, refugees and academics, but only six for Islamic scholars. "We hope the loya jirga will be the symbol of national unity," said the chair of the organizing commission. But the seat allocation, a break from an Afghan past dominated by Muslim clergy, drew an immediate rebuke from a prominent Kabul cleric, who called it a "humiliation." The commission chair, Ismail Qasimyar, also said Afghanistan's former king, Mohammad Zaher Shah, whose homecoming had been postponed because of security concerns, would return from his long exile on April 16. *AP*

Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Entry of mining firms divides Davao 'lumads'

By Ferdinand O. Zuasola
PDI Mindanao Bureau

MATI, Davao Oriental—They used to be united in protecting their ancestral land. In fact, they succeeded in driving a big logging company out of their land.

But when mining firms started scrambling to get their lands, the Mandaya and Higaonon *lumads* began to be divided.

The looming confrontation between Mandaya and Higaonon natives is now stalling the entry of at least nine multinational mining companies in the coastal villages of Mt. Pujada Bay here.

The two tribes are asserting their respective rights, one in favor of and the other against the proposed mining sites here. The disputed area covers some 20,000 hectares of land believed to be rich in nickel and chromite.

A group of Mandaya *lumads* welcomes the entry of the mining firms, claiming this will save them from extreme poverty.

The Higaonon natives, on the other hand, vowed to block any mining operation in the area. A number of anti-mining Mandaya natives have joined the Higaonon *lumads*. They believe mining will destroy their land.

No rush

"We will not rush this because violence might erupt," Davao Oriental Gov. Maria Elena Palma Gil said during a recent dialogue with the warring natives.

Palma Gil was referring to the "favorable endorsement" the mining firms have asked from the provincial environment and natural resources council for their P5-billion mineral exploration projects in the barangays along Pujada Bay, an area declared as a protected seascape and landscape.

The environment council, chaired by the governor, is an administrative body that regulates all environmental projects in the province.

The mining firms claimed that they have already secured the approval of residents at the proposed mining sites. According to them, all they needed was the environment council's favorable recommendation of the projects before the Mines and Geosciences Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources issues an exploration permit.

Palma Gil, however, said the environment council will not make a "favorable endorsement" yet of the mining projects while the National Commission for the Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) are moving to reconcile the divided *lumads*.

The governor also said the environment council will conduct its own consultation among the warring natives "to get their pulse whether they are really for or against mining."

"And that will become our basis (for) the endorsement of the mining projects," she added.

But Roque Agton, regional director of the NCIP, said his office had already conducted a series of consultations among the natives and that "the result was overwhelmingly pro-mining."

Not natives

He said the anti-mining stance of the Higaonon natives "should not be listened to at all because they are not natives of Davao Oriental. They don't own the land and the NCIP does not recognize them as natives of Davao Oriental because they belong to Bukidnon."

The Higaonon *lumads* "don't have the right to dictate (to) us what to do with our ancestral lands," said Mandaya tribal leader Rufino Mapinogos. "We will assert, at all costs, our right over our own land," he added.

But Datu Manaon Victor Aying, leader of the anti-mining Higaonon natives, said the dispute can be best resolved in a tribal war.

"If we get killed in the war, only then can they sell our land to the mining companies. Our land and rivers are our life and we will die for it," Aying said.

But NCIP commissioner Norma Gonos, a Mandaya *lumad*, urged the two tribes "not to allow the mining issue to divide us."

"We used to be one in fighting the entry of logging companies in our land, and we succeeded in forcing them out," Gonos added.

The Higaonons said the "pro-mining" Mandaya natives were being "bribed" by the firms, a charge that the Mandaya tribal leaders denied.

The Mandaya *lumads* said they were just being "practical" in allowing their land to be mined as it will save them from extreme poverty.

At least seven of the nine multinational mining companies fighting for the right to explore the mineral-rich coastal barangays of Pujada Bay here, are set to start their exploration activities next month.

The seven mining firms said their initial activity is to determine the "economic feasibility" of nickel and chromite reserves along the coastal barangays of Pujada Bay.

The area is estimated to yield 475,718,580 metric tons of nickel and more than 203,000 metric tons of chromite, according to the MGB.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms. source: **pagasa**

Metro Manila	Clear to partly cloudy	HI36° Lo22°
Baguio	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 26° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 35° Lo 23°
Laoag	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Clear to partly cloudy	Hi 35° Lo 22°
Tagaytay	Clear to partly cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 21°
Legazpi	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Calapan	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Roxas	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Tacloban	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 22°
Davao	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Armin P. Adina, PDI Research/04/01/02

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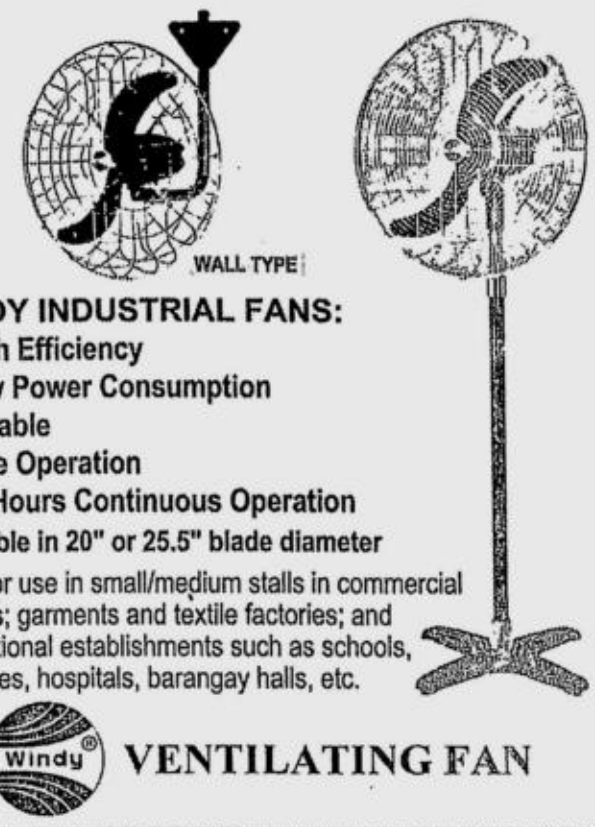

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A testimonial dinner in their honor will be held on Thursday, April 4, 2002 to be preceded by a Thanksgiving Mass at 4:00 p.m. at the Arellano Law Review Room, Taft Avenue cor Menlo Street, Pasay City. The successful candidates are requested to contact the Office of the Dean, tel. nos. 510-2851 or 510-2853 on or before said date for confirmation.

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Drought hits Central Luzon farms, Iloilo

By Tonette Orejas, *PDI Central Luzon Desk* **and Diosa Labiste,** *PDI Visayas Bureau*

THE DROUGHT has damaged 2,656.40 metric tons of palay worth P5.8 million in eight towns in Central Luzon, a report from the Department of Agriculture said. In Iloilo, authorities said the Tigum River, the source of piped water in the city and several towns, is drying up.

The crop has "no chances of recovery," according to Eduardo Gonzales, DA regional rice program coordinator in a March 21 report.

The drought, affecting some 500 farmers, has spread to at least 1,360.18 hectares in Carranglan town and San Jose City in Nueva Ecija; Tarlac City, Camiling and Moncada in Tarlac; and Botolan, Cabangan and San Antonio towns in Zambales.

Zambales suffered the biggest loss, with as much as 1,060.62 metric tons recorded in March.

Gonzales warned that, if unchecked, the damage from this year's drought in the region could reach or surpass the P400-million palay losses recorded in 1997 and 1998.

This was because the resurgence in July of the El Niño phenomenon, characterized by intense drought, is accompanied by the unchecked installation of shallow tube wells in farms and heavy groundwater withdrawal by agri-industries and homes.

About 95 percent of irrigation pumps do not have permits, Gonzales noted. Without permits from the National Water Resources Board, farmers have built wells at an average spacing of only 30 meters, he said. The allowed distance is 500 meters.

Local governments also have no hand in regulating the construction of wells, he added.

According to Gonzales, the full impact of the drought in Central Luzon would be known by the end of this month when farmers close the harvest period for the dry season.

Advice

However, the initial damage have already prompted the DA to advise farmers with pumps to delay the next planting season towards the end of May.

Tillers who rely entirely on rain for irrigation must shift to crops that can be harvested after 45 days, like vegetables, Gonzales said.

At this time, he said it is best to give the soil a "rest" by leaving it untilled and plowing it to release accumulated acids from pesticides and fertilizers.

This way, the soil could also effectively absorb moisture, he added.

He said Tarlac, Nueva Ecija and Zambales stand to incur more losses because these provinces have more upland farm areas that are very vulnerable to drought.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration has predicted that the El Niño would affect these areas, Gonzales said.

Pampanga, Bulacan and Bataan—provinces deemed less vulnerable to the drought because these are in the middle of the water catch basin in the region—could help bail out Central Luzon from rice shortage.

Central Luzon, one of the three major rice-producing regions in the country, produces an average of two million metric tons of rice per harvest season.

Waterless summer

In Iloilo province, Iloilo City and the adjoining towns of Pavia, Sta. Barbara, Cabatuan, Maasin and Oton are facing a waterless summer as the tributaries of Tigum River, the source of piped water, are drying up.

"We cannot do anything so we just have to pray," said Albeto Villasis, operations department manager of the Metro Iloilo Water District (MIWD) when asked if rationing would start soon.

The 11 tributaries of Tigum River in Maasin have started drying up two weeks ago. Although the taps are still flowing, the MIWD is expecting the worst.

The dry spell, expected to peak this month, may considerably reduce the MIWD's water supply.

A survey conducted by the MIWD two weeks ago showed that five creeks emptying into Tigum River were still flowing at four liters per second.

Four other active creeks were flowing at one to two liters per second. The rest have dried up as they have always been during summer.

Precautions

Villasis said there was no need to ration water yet but the MIWD was taking precautions like rehabilitating its deep well in Oton to pump more water into the pipes.

But Francisco Gallego, in-charge of the reforestation project at Maasin Watershed, refuted the MIWD, saying that Tigum River has only four major tributaries that are alive throughout the year. The rest customarily dry up in the hot season.

Jessica Salas, vice chair of the Iloilo Provincial Watershed Management Council (IPWMC), has urged public officials here to start enforcing conservation measures before it is too late.

"We have yet to see the worst to come," said Salas during an emergency meeting of the council here on March 23. "This is still early summer and already the Tigum River is in critical condition."

Maasin Mayor Mariano Malones, also a member of IPWMC, reported that farmers, who depend on the river for farming and domestic needs, are alarmed because the Daja Dam at Tigum River no longer overflows.

Malones said all of Tigum's water was diverted to two MIWD pipes. He asked the council to put up measures so that the residents would have water for their needs.

Piped water from the MIWD flows into some 10,000 households and 3,000 commercial establishments in Iloilo City and five adjoining towns.

Malones is appealing to the MIWD to shut down one of its pipes for two hours in the morning and two hours in the afternoon so that farmers in Maasin will enjoy water.

Salas urged public officials, especially those at the MIWD to start solving the problem now by implementing conservation measures like rationing and prioritizing the use of "processed water for drinking purposes."

CALOY AFTERMATH. The roof and walls of this small house was torn off by Caloy's strong winds and rushing water. MA. KRISTINA CASSION

Oysters are dying in Dagupan

DAGUPAN CITY—The *bangus* (milkfish) industry here may be thriving, but it has been causing the demise of another aquaculture potential, the oyster industry, a government official said.

Production of oysters is being beset by problems like slow water flow brought about by the numerous fish pens dotting the city rivers where these used to thrive, said Westly Rosario, chief of the government-run National Integrated Fisheries Technology and Development Center here.

Other problems are the high concentration of commercial feeds in these pens and the low oxygen level and high temperature of the rivers.

Dagupan was once known for its luscious oysters, until some years ago when fish pen operations flourished. That was the beginning of the slow death of shell food industry, Rosario said.

While oysters are openly sold here, most of these come from nearby Binmaley and the western towns of Alaminos, Anda and Bolinao.

Oysters are mollusks of the class *Bivalvia* characterized by rough and irregularly shaped shells that are closed by only one muscle. Found in shallow, brackish or tidal waters, oysters are considered a delicacy.

Another shellfish, locally known as *kampis*, has taken over the oysters as a dominant species in the rivers, but it is not as delicious as the oysters.

"It is not popular among residents here," Rosario said. *Kampis* has rubbery flesh unlike oysters, which have soft meat.

The NIFTDC has stopped culturing oysters because their production has been adversely affected, he said.

He expressed fear that even the oyster industry in the western towns may not last for long because the aquaculture operation there is also growing.

In Bolinao, *tahong* (mussels), introduced there in the early 1980s, are harvested in abundance especially at the aquaculture areas. They may also displace other shell species dominant in the town, Rosario said. ***Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

5 drown in Holy Week accidents in Luzon

CANDON CITY—At least five people, two of them children, drowned during the Holy Week retreat in separate incidents in Ilocos Sur and Zambales, police reports said.

Four of the fatalities were vacationers while the fifth victim was a banca driver who drowned after rescuing a boy who fell off his banca in Barangay Patpata here on Saturday.

Police identified the fatalities in Ilocos Sur as Allan Hernaez, 20; and the Martinez siblings Joseph, 9, and Joenell, 7, of Baguio City.

Reports showed that Hernaez was ferrying passengers to Barangay Calungbuyan here when one of his passengers, Janseen Bambid, 12, fell off the boat.

Police said Bambid, who was sitting on an edge of the boat, fell off after Hernaez changed gear and the boat sped.

When Hernaez noticed that the boy fell, he immediately jumped off his *banca* and swam to save Bambid.

Hernaez then brought Bambid near his *banca*.

But police said Hernaez, due to fatigue and severe exhaustion, did not immediately climb his *banca* and instead stayed in the water for some time to rest.

It was while Hernaez was resting when he was swept by a strong current and failed to swim to safety, police said.

In Sta. Maria town, the Martinez siblings, who came from Baguio to spend the Holy Week break with their grandmother in the town, drowned in the waters off Barangay Nalvo on Holy Thursday.

Neighbors found the children floating in the sea. The Martinez children died while being taken to the Sto. Niño Hospital in Sta. Maria.

In Zambales, police identified the drowning victims as Eugenia Abrigo, 78, of Iba town, and Charlie Cadis of Caloocan City.

Reports said Abrigo, who was swimming with family members in a resort in Barangay San Agustin in Iba, drowned on Holy Thursday when she was swept by a strong current.

Cadis, whom police said was epileptic, drowned after he suffered from seizure while swimming at a beach resort in Barangay Lipay-Dingin Panibuatan also in Iba. ***Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, and Cesar Villa, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

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Notice is hereby given to the public that on March 5, 2002, ACA Video and Laser Tech, Inc. has terminated its Franchise Agreement with Mr. Anthony M. Picart for the operation of the ACA VIDEO ANTIPOLO BRANCH effective on the same date. ACA VIDEO ANTIPOLO BRANCH has been directed to cease and desist from doing any act incidental or pertinent to the use of ACA Video's name and goodwill.

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MILITARY FICTION?

No rift over peace talks, says CPP's Ka Roger

LUCENA CITY—The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) yesterday denied there was disagreement among local communist officials on the issue of peace talks with the government, saying the report was a "fiction concocted by the military."

Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, CPP spokesperson, reiterated in a statement furnished the INQUIRER that the party and all units of the New People's Army stand solidly united behind the policy of conducting peace talks while carrying out an armed struggle.

Last week, Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta disclosed that a leadership struggle in the Philippines' communist leadership was blocking the resumption of peace talks with the government.

Faction

A military report revealed that a faction led by Benito Tiamzon, head of the CPP's armed wing, the New People's Army, was opposing peace talks with the Macapagal administration.

Rosal said it is the militarism of the Macapagal administration that is imperiling the peace talks.

Rosal further said the revolutionary forces are always ready to talk with the government as long as it shows sincerity in tackling the root causes of the armed conflict.

The CPP leadership has expressed that "peace negotiations can be conducted (while waging) armed struggle," Rosal said.

He pointed out that it is the government that is no longer interested in talking peace with the National Democratic Front.

Arrested

Last week, army and police operatives arrested a top NPA leader in Bicol and his wife in Camalig, Albay.

Armed Forces' Southern Luzon Command chief Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina identified the NPA rebel as Nestor Paluyo of the Guerrilla Front 74 and member of the Bicol Regional Party Committee (BRPC).

The front operates in Camarines Sur.

Paluyo's wife, Eliza Nazareth, allegedly heads the technical and education staff of the CPP in the area.

Carolina said the couple was arrested on March 22 in Barangay Taladong, Camalig, but was presented to media only last Tuesday after the rebels were subjected to tactical interrogation.

The couple was arrested by virtue of warrants of arrest for several counts of murder and frustrated murder lodged in various courts in Iriga City and Libmanan, Camarines Sur.

Paluyo was reportedly one of the NPA leaders who attacked the Tandaay police Kababayan Center in Nabua, Camarines Sur, killing SPO1 Pedro Estrologo.

He was also the suspect in the killing of former Camalig mayor Florencio Muñoz and the bombing of Sipocot bridge in Camarines Sur years ago. ***Delfin T. Mallari Jr. and Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Another mall razed in Gen. Santos City

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Another fire gutted a shopping mall here early morning yesterday, prompting officials to raise concern about the possibility of foul play.

The fire that razed about 90 percent of the KCC Mall damaged about P200 million and displaced at least 900 workers, according to authorities.

The mall's guards detected the blaze, which broke out at around 1 a.m., 15 minutes after it started.

The Bureau of Fire Protection said it received the fire alarm at 1:15 a.m. exactly the same time the information on the Kimball Plaza fire more than a week ago came in.

Arson investigators said the fire started at the warehouse section of the mall. It quickly swelled to other sections of the KCC.

Firefighters from all over the South Cotabato-Sultan Kudarat-Sarangani-General Santos (Socsksargen) area had a hard time containing the fire, as loaded liquefied petroleum gas tanks successively exploded.

The fire was put off only about four hours later.

Councilor Lourdes Casabuena proposed that a thorough investigation be conducted to determine the real cause of the recent fire.

"There should be a thorough investigation to know whether the two separate fire incidents were not part of an economic sabotage or terrorist activities perpetrated by some lawless elements," Casabuena said.

On March 19, about P1 billion was lost when fire razed Kimball Plaza and five other stores in the city's business district.

More than 1,000 mall workers were also displaced by the incident.

Until now fire officials have not determined the cause of the fire.

Before the Kimball Plaza fire, an improvised bomb was found inside the Gaisano Shopping store here.

The bomb, experts said, was only meant to scare people, as it contained no shrapnel.

However, SPO4 Edgar Balofinos, a police bomb expert, said the bomb was more than enough to ignite fire.

Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

SC upholds sexual harassment ruling

From page A1

intended to enrich the complainant but are awarded only to enable an injured party to obtain some means that would help obviate the sufferings sustained (from) culpable action of an offender."

The tribunal also said "(the) award must not appear to be the result of passion, and it must always reasonably approximate the extent of injury and be proportional to the wrong committed."

"Indeed, Juliet should be recompensed for her mental anguish for she has been found to be emotionally and psychologically disturbed and suffering from posttrauma stress following the unpleasant experience," the tribunal said.

It said it found it "fitting" to award Yee P30,000 in moral damages and P20,000 in exemplary damages "to serve as a deterrent against, or as a negative incentive to curb, socially deleterious actions."

Out in the open

Now married and expecting a child in June, Yee said winning the case had been farthest from her mind but that it helped her recover from the trauma.

"I didn't even care to win or lose for as long as I had it out in the open," said the nursing graduate. "I already felt vindicated doing it that way. I couldn't allow (Jacutin) to continue (his) sexual assaults."

Addressing her unborn child, Yee said: "When the time comes, you will know how your mother fought the hardest trial of her life. I will not deprive you of that because I do not want you to experience what I went through."

This was what Yee went through, by her account:

On Dec. 1, 1995, like many other young graduates, Yee was eager to land a job. She sought the help of her father, a policeman, and a family friend to find work at the city government.

She met Jacutin, then chief of the city health office, in the course of job-hunting.

After talking with Yee and her group, Jacutin told her to return in the afternoon. She complied, but instead of continuing with the interview, Jacutin said he wanted to go bowling.

He told Yee to leave the city health office and wait for him along Borja Street.

Although puzzled, Yee again did as she was told, and a few minutes later Jacutin arrived on board a car and picked her up.

They proceeded to his house, where he changed into bowling togs.

Back in the car, Jacutin asked Yee if she had varicose veins. She said no but he insisted on seeing her legs, and told her to lower her pants.

Thinking that Jacutin was already conducting a physical examination on her, Yee obeyed.

She was stunned when Jacutin touched her genitals and immediately pulled up her pants.

Then he told her to raise her shirt, assuring her that it was part of the physical examination.

"But he was already fondling my breast," Yee recalled, adding that it was then that she grabbed her bag and got out of the car.

Not easy

Yee decided to sue Jacutin, but the going was not easy.

She said one of the saddest aspects of her struggle was when her relatives urged her to withdraw the case. "They told me it would just be a waste of time and money," she said.

The worst nightmare, she said, was when a priest asked her how much she wanted in exchange for dropping the case.

"I was devastated by his act and never thought that someone from the religious sector could do that," she said. "He was sent to see me because they thought I could not turn him down. And they were wrong."

Yee also said certain people even accused her of filing the case because of financial considerations.

But she gained strength when Jacutin's other victims surfaced, she said, pointing out that her family always stood by her side.

Marvi Lachica, former chair of the local chapter of the nongovernment organization Pilipina, told the INQUIRER that women victimized by sexual harassment should not be afraid to file charges.

Yee's experience proved that RA 7877 is working, Lachica said.

More than 2 years

But the battle is far from over.

In San Jose, Antique, a 22-year-old woman has assailed Antique Gov. Salvacion Zaldivar-Perez in connection with a two-year-old sexual harassment case.

The woman, a resident of Negros Occidental, said justice was being denied her because of the delay in the implementation of a June 2000 resolution recommending the six-month suspension of Henry Bernardio, a former provincial planning and development officer.

"Why has (Perez) not acted on this? It has been more than two years," the woman said. "Until now I cannot sleep when I remember what (Bernardio) did to me."

According to the woman, Perez made the assurance that she would hand down the resolution on Bernardio shortly after the governor assumed office.

The woman said she and her family had suffered so much. "I just want him out of his position so that he cannot harm other women like me," she said.

But Perez said that while she sympathized with the woman, legal processes had to be followed.

"Being a woman, I am against sexual harassment . . . but I have to give Bernardio a chance to present his side," the governor said.

The woman said she sought Bernardio's help to apply for a job in the provincial government in January 2000, while she was staying with an aunt in San Jose.

She said that on Jan. 27 of that year, Bernardio molested her while they were on board his vehicle.

She filed an administrative complaint against Bernardio on Feb. 28, before then Gov. Exequiel Javier.

On March 24, a three-member committee formed by Javier recommended a 60-day preventive suspension for Bernardio, from May 16 to June 15, 2000.

Guilty

In a resolution dated June 28, the committee found Bernardio guilty of grave misconduct and recommended his suspension for six months inclusive of the two-month preventive suspension.

Perez adopted the resolution on Nov. 12, 2001, but it was not implemented because Bernardio filed a motion for reconsideration.

The woman also filed a criminal complaint in the Municipal Trial Court of San Jose on June 2, 2000. But MTC Judge Monina Misajon dismissed the case on May 10, 2001, because of a technicality.

While he had admitted that the woman asked for his help to find a job, Bernardio had denied the accusation and said he was a "victim of a frame-up."

He said the accusation was "political harassment" initiated by Javier because he supported Javier's political rival, former Rep. Jovito Plameras.

Javier called Bernardio's statement "a lie." He said that during his term as governor, many female employees in the provincial capitol complained of Bernardio's "harassments."

Reports from Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau, and Nestor P. Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau

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Swiss order frees more deposits of Marcos pals

From page A1

frozen accounts on his own, without any direction from the Swiss Federal Council that had originally imposed the freeze in 1986.

"The PCGG is once again confused, confounded and confuted," he said.

A congresswoman, who is one of the martial law victims on record, asked the PCGG to fire Kurer.

"It's really Martin Kurer who is directly responsible for this fiasco," Akbayan party-list Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales said in a phone interview. "I can't understand why he did not warn the PCGG about the prescription period."

She also assailed Kurer's statement that the lifting caught him by surprise, saying it was the Swiss lawyer's "business" to know about such things. Not doing so was "gross negligence on his part," she said.

Kurer has been the Swiss lawyer of the PCGG since the time of PCGG Chair Magtanggol Gunigundo.

But PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza said the problem was not Kurer but the failure to get various Philippine civil and criminal cases against Velasco moving in the past.

Asked if the PCGG would retain Kurer, Carranza said the problem was really larger than that, citing the whole Swiss system, including the difficulty of dealing with Swiss banks and the slow movement of cases at the Sandiganbayan.

Carranza said he did not know if the Swiss accounts of Velasco, Clavecilla and Borja at Union Bancaire Privee and which contained some $17 million in deposits, were still intact, or even if these could still be recovered in full.

The PCGG is mulling over the filing of an appeal with the Court of Appeals in Zurich. It has 30 days from the date of the order, or until April 12, to do so.

Jann said it was up to the "possible appellants to decide upon or to request from the Court of Appeals interim measures" regarding the lifting of the freeze.

Legal remedies

In his March 12 decision, Jann said that "basically, only the Federal Department of Justice can appeal (his finding)."

"However, the Federal Court (has) allowed, in several cases, the Republic of the Philippines to take legal remedies. Whether this would apply here would be up to the appeal instances to decide," Jann said.

Carranza said the PCGG had yet to determine if it had the personality to file the appeal. Based on Swiss rules, it is the Swiss Federal Department of Justice who should file it, but in previous cases the Philippine government had been allowed to file on its own.

Filing an appeal is one option. Another is waiting for the outcome of the forfeiture cases against Velasco, Clavecilla and De Borja which the PCGG filed in March with the Department of Justice.

Velasco's funds, under the Amunet Foundation and code-named Necktie, amounted to $15,519,972. He also has undisclosed amounts with another alleged dummy foundation, Andrews Foundation.

Clavecilla had $551,554 under code-name Kalepa. De Borja had $921,532 under Nono, another account code.

Velasco, now 75, was represented in Switzerland by his lawyer, Dr. Georg Widerkehr. Both De Borja, 57, and Clavecilla, 53, were represented by Swiss lawyer Dr. Urs Saxer.

On Nov. 21, 2001, Saxer filed a motion in Switzerland requesting the Philippines to set a deadline for the introduction of a proceeding against Clavecilla. In case the deadline was not met, the motion requested that the "frozen assets be unfrozen/released."

On Dec. 7, 2001, Widerkehr filed a similar motion for Velasco and Andrews Foundation. De Borja did not file any request.

In his decision, Jann said that through the letters of Nov. 23, 2001 and Dec. 10, 2001, the Federal Office of Justice and the legal representative of the Philippine government were "given the opportunity to give their view."

The PCGG, in its brief on Jan. 4, 2002, asked that the motions of the cronies be dismissed.

Jann said he found no reference to the criminal behavior of Clavecilla and Velasco.

"If there is a lack of facts calling for judicial assistance, a freeze of assets cannot be justified. Therefore, the assets shall be released," he said in his Feb. 6 order.

"The proceedings regarding request for mutual assistance (begun in 1986) shall no longer be continued," he said.

Another fallback

Carranza said another "fallback" for the PCGG would be the outcome of the civil cases against Velasco and De Borja, which are still pending with the Sandiganbayan.

He said that if there were a favorable judgment in these civil cases, as well as in the forfeiture cases filed separately with the Department of Justice, the Philippine government can still go after the Swiss deposits of the three cronies.

By that time, however, the main problem of the PCGG would likely be "tracing" the funds, he added.

The civil cases, filed way back in 1987, are still pending.

The new PCGG chair, Haydee Yorac, discovered to her "horror" that the two boxes of documents proving the illegality of Velasco's funds acquired from Philippine National Oil Corp. transactions were missing.

The PCGG filed a criminal case against Velasco with the Office of the Ombudsman in 1991. Desierto, then the recommending prosecutor, recommended the case's dismissal. Ombudsman Conrado Vasquez did not act on the recommendation to dismiss the case, according to one PCGG commissioner.

However, when Desierto assumed the position of Ombudsman, he approved the dismissal he had himself recommended.

Had it not been dismissed, the criminal case could have served to convince Swiss authorities of the "criminal" nature of the Velasco funds.

Conflict of interest?

Representative Rosales urged the PCGG to "find out for sure" if Kurer was also representing a Swiss bank, which would then be a clear case of conflict of interest.

She also said Kurer should not credit himself for the Swiss decision in 1997 to transfer the Marcos deposits to the government.

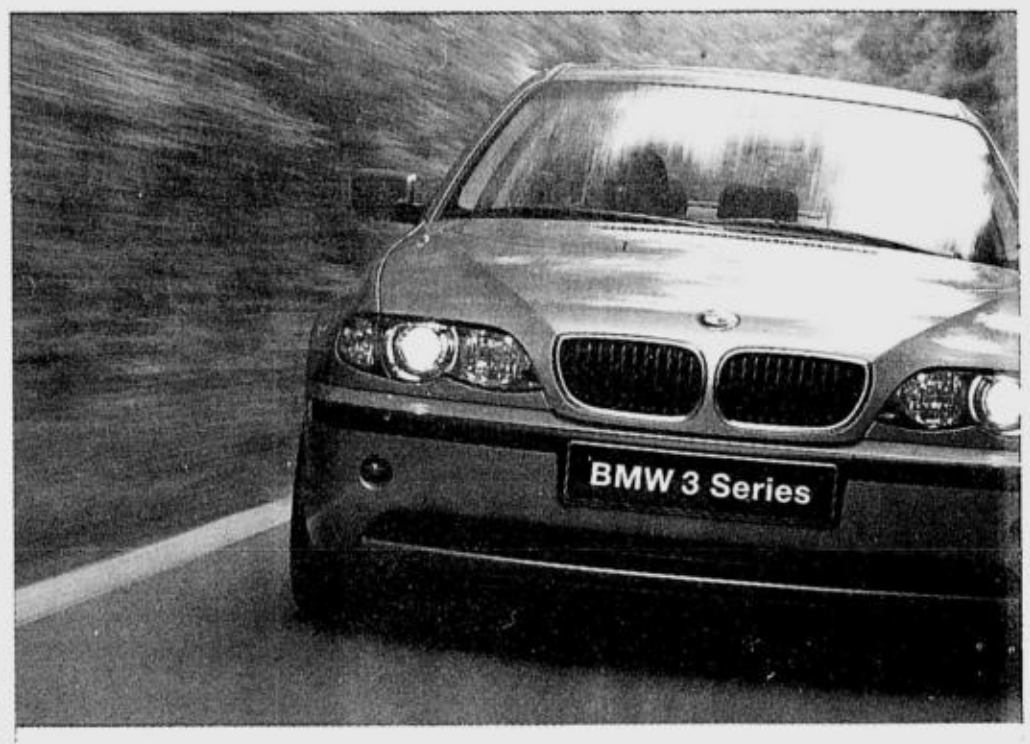
The transfer was made because "it was obvious during that time that all branches of the Swiss government wanted to keep its distance from the Marcos dictatorship and to do so (was) to get rid of their deposits," she said.

Rosales said she still believes that Yorac and her team were trying its best to push the case against the Marcos cronies as well as recover the ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses.

"That's why I'm wondering. Why is that when the PCGG is hell-bent and dead-set on running after the cronies, should this prescription period come out?" she asked.

Other groups called on the PCGG to take immediate steps. Ric Reyes of the Partnership for Agrarian Reform and Rural Reform Development Services asked the government to "act immediately" so that the Swiss bank deposits would not be withdrawn.

Rodolfo Sambajon, chair of the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas, said the PCGG should denounce the lifting because it was a direct insult to the Filipino people. ***With reports from Christine Avendaño and Gerald Lacuarta***



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Fear grips once vibrant West Bank city

From page A1

their way through the perimeter walls, moved in tanks and cornered the Palestinian leader together with about 100 aides—punishing him, Israeli officials said, for a relentless wave of suicide bombings.

At least 15 people were killed Sunday and scores injured in the latest bloody attack, a powerful blast that ripped through an eatery in the busy port city of Haifa.

But while the three-day-old siege of Arafat's headquarters was capturing the greatest share of attention, the Israeli military presence was felt in every corner of this city as troops searched for militants and weapons caches.

Terror, tedium

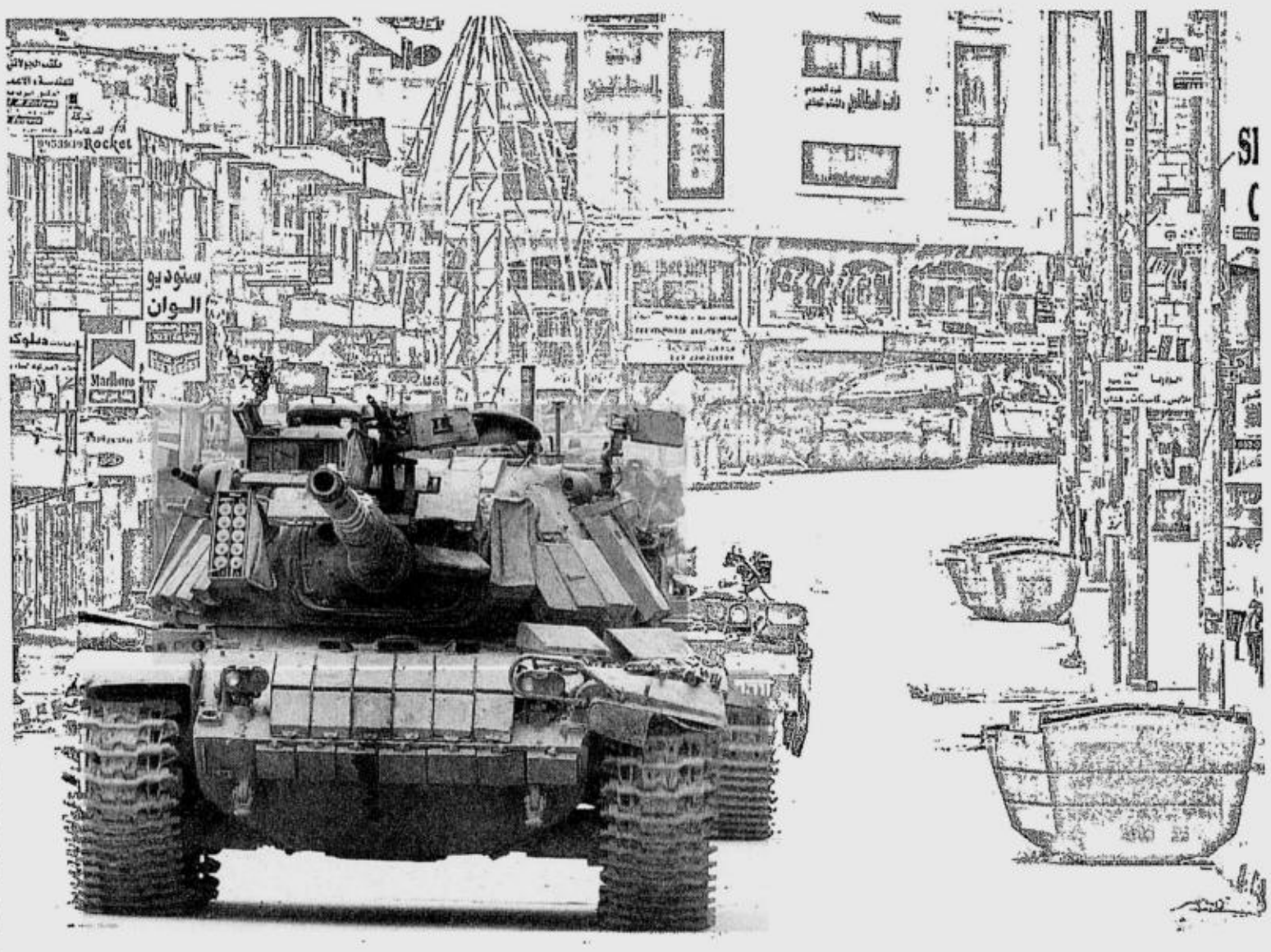
Palestinians trapped in their homes by the fighting described a mixture of terror and tedium as the hours and days dragged on.

"We hear the sound of gunfire and tank shells, and the children are afraid, and then it stops, and we have nothing to do but talk about things we have talked about over and over again," said Emad el-Atshan, 38. His apartment house, home to six families, is less than 50 meters from Arafat's compound.

Troops have commandeered homes and buildings, set up sandbag emplacements draped with camouflage netting on residential streets, erected barricades and dug trenches, making the hilly streets into a near-impassable maze.

"My car," said Ziad Abu Arah, gesturing toward a late-model tan Ford that had been run over by a tank. "It's the second one of mine this happened to."

Almost the only vehicles out in the streets were Israeli armored personnel carriers, the occasional ambulance and journalists' cars that maneuvered gingerly—often turned back by tanks that swiveled their turrets and trained their big guns on anything or anyone that ventured too close.



ISRAELI tanks and armored personnel carriers patrol the deserted central square of the West Bank city of Ramallah. GETTY IMAGES

Power cut

Power and water have been cut in many districts. "Everything has rotted in the refrigerator—it smells terrible—and we can't even wash our clothes," said 20-year-old Sireen Abdel Hadi, who lives with her parents and three sisters in an affluent hillside neighborhood.

Just below her home, neighbors rigged up lengths of garden hose to catch the runoff from a water pipe shattered when Israeli armor carved a deep trench across the road.

A couple of small children were intent at the task of filling plastic bottles and pitchers from the hose.

A university lecturer watching the scene, who gave his name only as Abed, could hardly contain his anger and bitterness.

"We used to see scenes like this in Palestinian refugee camps," he said, his sweeping gesture taking in the children and the comfortable nearby homes. "And now here."

Throughout the city, businesses and shops were shuttered tight. One grocery store opened briefly and furtively, cracking open one of its outer doors to let customers, keeping the lights out in the storefront.

"Kids need milk—we feel we have to open for a little while at least," said the proprietor, who feared the activity would attract the attention of the soldiers a few streets away.

Cosmopolitan

Despite pockets of intense poverty, Ramallah—whose area has some 200,000 people—has long had an air of cosmopolitan sophistication.

It boasts of fine schools, and is home to many Palestinian-Americans. Before the outbreak of violence 18 months ago, people from Jerusalem, 18 km to the south, would sometimes drive to the city to hear jazz at a popular club.

Because of its former standing, this Israeli incursion—the third and by far the most serious during the fighting—was a profound psychological blow to many Palestinians.

As the West Bank's unofficial administrative capital, the city is home to many liberals who were supporters of the peace process.

"I'm so sad, so depressed to see all this ruin, the ruin of hopes," said Ahmed Salam, a 21-year-old engineering student.

Under leaden-gray skies, random ugly scenes played themselves out in the city's narrow streets. One group of journalists rounded a corner and came across the sprawled body of a Palestinian man, blood staining the sidewalk from his wounds in the chest and head. Another body was nearby.

Fifteen Palestinians, guarded by Israeli troops, were being made to kneel along the wall of a building, their hands clasped behind their necks.

One man was wearing plastic sandals that fell off his feet as he knelt. Troops at the scene refused to answer any questions about what had happened, and the Army had no immediate explanation.

A few blocks away, an elderly French nun ventured out on the rooftop of her small convent to see what was happening.

Asked how she and her six fellow sisters were faring, she murmured in French: "As you can see." *AP*

Israeli tanks roll into Bethlehem

From page A1

against Israelis.

Palestinian Cabinet Minister Saeb Erekat dismissed Sharon's speech, saying it was "void of substance, void of hope, void of realism."

The expansion of the four-day Israeli offensive in the West Bank began Sunday night when Israeli bulldozers and about 60 tanks moved into the northern town of Qalqilya, said the city's governor, Mustafa Malki.

The Israeli forces quickly took control of the town, and the Army said troops were searching for suspects and weapons and intended to "destroy the terrorist infrastructure" in the town. One soldier was seriously wounded from an explosion during a house search in Qalqilya, the military said.

Four of the suicide bombers who struck in Israel in the last five days came from the northern West Bank and a female bomber who hit Jerusalem on Friday was from the Bethlehem area.

On Monday, Israeli Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer told Israel Radio: "We are defending our homes. We have no other place. We are going to defend our homes with all our strength."

Also on Monday, the Israeli military said that soldiers had seized positions overlooking the West Bank town of Tulkarem, near Qalqilya, tightening the closure of the town.

At a conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, top officials from Islamic countries on Monday urged the UN Security Council to intervene to protect Palestinians. ***(See story in The World, Page A9.)***

Suicide bombings

But suicide bombings on Sunday threatened to fuel Israel's resolve to continue the offensive.

In Haifa, a bomber blew up a restaurant, killing himself and 14 Israelis. Another bomber set off explosives at the Jewish settlement of Efrat, south of Jerusalem in the West Bank, killing himself and gravely wounding a paramedic.

Israeli troops fired at a group of Palestinian police attempting to surrender in Ramallah late Sunday, killing five and injuring several more, said a policeman in the building and Palestinian officials.

In a statement, the Israeli military said "wanted men" were in the building and one of them, wearing a belt of explosives, opened fire on the Israelis. The soldiers chased him and shot him dead, the statement said.

Israel warned that foreign journalists were at risk and must leave the West Bank town. A Boston Globe reporter, Anthony Shadid, was shot and wounded in the shoulder on Sunday in Ramallah.

In a statement describing the military operation, called "Protective Wall," the military chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Shaul Mofaz, indicated it would be large-scale and lengthy.

"Because of the nature, complexity and length of the missions," he wrote, "we decided to mobilize reserves." The commander of the reserves, Brig. Gen. Ariel Hyman, said 20,000 soldiers would be called up.

Collaborators

As Israeli forces advanced, Palestinian militants were killing Palestinians suspected of collaborating with Israel.

Palestinian security sources said Monday that 10 bodies were found in the West Bank. The dead included nine who were taken by militants from a temporary jail and shot in the streets in Tulkarem.

The men might have been killed to avoid having the suspects freed by Israeli troops who threatened to enter the northern town, the Palestinian sources said.

In the West Bank city of Hebron, about 1,000 Palestinians marched late Sunday to protest the Israeli occupation of Ramallah. Gunmen fired in the air as marchers chanted slogans calling for more suicide bomb attacks in Israel.

In 18 months of fighting, 1,269 people have been killed on the Palestinian side and 416 on the Israeli side.

Late Sunday, on the Israel-Lebanon border, Hezbollah guerrillas fired at an Israeli Army base, the Israeli military and Lebanese security officials said. It was the second such incident in two days, raising the possibility of a new front in the conflict.

The clashes followed vociferous support for the Palestinians from the head of Hezbollah, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah. *AP*

Netherlands . . .

From page A1

If the committee rules that the criteria were not fulfilled, the case will be referred to the Dutch public prosecutor's office which can decide to press charges against the physician who carried out the euthanasia.

Although the law has been much criticized abroad—even by the United Nations—it enjoys wide support from Dutch society in general and the medical world.

"The law sets clear rules which also offer protection for patients," said Bernadina Wanrooij, who is responsible for palliative care at Amsterdam's AMC hospital.

Dutch doctors are quick to point out that mercy killings are also often carried out in other countries but in secret without any laws to govern them. ***(See related story on this page.)***

Confronted with the criticism of the UN Human Rights Committee that euthanasia could become "trivialized" due to the legislation, medical ethics expert Dick Willems said it remained a difficult decision for doctors.

"It will always be something that doctors will struggle with, it is something you only do when you have the feeling that nothing else can be done," he explained.

Despite the new legislation, the discussion in the Netherlands about what constitutes unbearable suffering is still ongoing.

In a landmark court case last December, the courts ruled that being "tired of life" did not constitute unbearable suffering.

The case centered on a doctor who had helped a physically healthy 86-year-old kill himself because he did not want to go on living.

The court ruled that this mental fatigue did not constitute unbearable suffering and that this was a case of assisted suicide, which is illegal.

From 1997 onward, euthanasia was officially illegal under Dutch law but tolerated under the same conditions the new legislation lays out.

To clarify the criteria for unbearable suffering, the Dutch Royal Association of Medicine (KNMG) has established a commission of psychologists, doctors, ethics scholars and lawyers, which will present its conclusions next year.

"What constitutes unbearable suffering without hope of improvement has become the subject of discussion, the possibilities for palliative care are better now than they were several years ago," said KNMG chair Ruud Hagenouw.

The legalization of mercy killings has also led to a rising interest in care for dying patients in the Netherlands. The health ministry announced earlier this month that it would make more money available for such initiatives.

Palliative care units are set up in many hospitals and training in that field is very popular w ' doctors.

Even th. igh many patients think the new law gi es them a right to euthanasia, doctors sa they still have to exhaust all possible medical solutions before agreeing to a mercy killing.

"Maybe a consequence of the legislation will be that doctors will put more thought in) possible palliative care and pain control for dying patients," Hagenouw said. *AFP*

Euthanasia around the world: How it works

STRASBOURG—As the European Court of Human Rights considers the case of a paralyzed British woman who wants the right to end her life, the tortured debate about euthanasia once again raises its head.

In many countries, the practice is implicitly allowed, some turning a blind eye to "assisted suicide," but many others refuse to countenance any legal framework for "active euthanasia."

While Diane Pretty, 43, waits to hear whether she has been granted permission to have her husband Brian help her commit suicide, here is a rundown of the legislation and practice of euthanasia around the world:

Europe

The Netherlands became the first country in the world to legalize euthanasia under certain conditions in April 2001, and the law came into force on Monday. The practice had been tolerated since 1997.

In Sweden, "suicide assistance" is a non-punishable offense. A doctor can, in extreme cases, unplug life support machines.

Denmark allows any patient with an incurable disease to make up his or her mind to decide when to stop vital treatment. Since Oct. 1, 1992, patients with terminal illnesses or victims of serious accidents can make out a "medical will" which doctors are bound to respect.

In France, euthanasia is illegal, but the law does distinguish between active euthanasia—the deliberate act of causing death, regarded as murder—and passive euthanasia or "therapeutic abstention"—regarded as refusing to medically prolong the life functions of a patient.

Under the law in Britain, euthanasia is illegal. However, in 1993 and 1994, the courts did grant leave to doctors to end the lives of people artificially kept alive. In June 1996 a patient in Scotland was "authorized to die."

The administration of a deadly drug in Germany is the equivalent of murder. The appeals court in Frankfurt has issued a judgment saying that euthanasia can only be agreed to by a supervising authority if it unambiguously corresponds to the wishes of the patient.

Belgium has passed a draft law legalizing mercy-killings under strict conditions, whereby a doctor who carries out a mercy killing will not be deemed to have committed a crime on condition that the patient is terminally ill, has made the decision himself and that certain other legal procedures have been respected.

A 1995 law in Spain ruled that euthanasia and assisted suicide should no longer be considered murder. Prison sentences are not applicable if the patient has made specific and repeated requests to be allowed to die, if he is suffering from an incurable disease or one entailing severe, permanent and unbearable pain.

In Italy, a staunchly Roman Catholic country, euthanasia is banned and the subject more or less taboo. Euthanasia is also proscribed by law in Greece, Norway and Turkey.

Americas

United States federal law forbids euthanasia. In November 1998, voters in the state of Michigan refused to legalize "assisted suicide" in a referendum.

Oregon is the only US state to have authorized euthanasia, in 1994, for terminally ill patients who formally request it. However, because a court opposed its enforcement, it has never been practiced.

In April 1996, the federal appeals court in New York, which has jurisdiction over the states of Vermont and Connecticut, authorized euthanasia.

In South America, Colombia's constitutional court accepted the practice of euthanasia in May 1997 for terminally ill patients who expressly ask for it.

Asia-Pacific

In Australia, the first law on euthanasia in the world was voted by the parliament of the Northern Territories in 1996, but the Australian government passed legislation overriding the law eight months later.

In 1998 in China, the government authorized hospitals to practice euthanasia for people in the terminal phase of an illness if they formally request it.

In many other countries, euthanasia is considered murder and remains a taboo subject. *AFP*

Piñol wants Asian chessfest

KIDAPAWAN CITY—North Cotabato Gov. Manny Piñol yesterday opened the National Inter-Cities and Municipalities chess team championship. Piñol said North Cotabato's cool climate makes it the logical choice to host the Asian Inter-Cities chessfest next year. "In consultation with Kidapawan Mayor (Luis) Malaluan, we have decided to bid for the hosting of the Asian chessfest," said Piñol, who will seek the help of the Philippine Sports Commission and Fide honorary president Florencio Campomanes.

SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza ◉ Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: US NCAA - 2002 College Slam Dunk and 3-Point Contest at 8:30 a.m. (r) on ESPN

US NCAA Championship at 10 a.m. (r – 8 p.m.) on Sky Cable and Home Cable Channel 29

GOLF: PGA Shell Houston Open, Second Round at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1990, Francis Factura beat Pierre Fernandez, 3-6, 6-3, 7-6, (7-2), to win the boys' 18-and-under title of the Crispa 400 age-group tennis championship at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

President's Cup Regatta sails on in Nasugbu; 17 entered

SEVENTEEN of the country's best boats display their skills against foreign counterparts when the President's Cup Regatta sails on today in Nasugbu, Batangas.

The Philippines' best bet in the five-day event organized by the Manila Yacht Club and cohosted by Club Punta Fuego, Maya Maya Yacht Club and Taal Lake Yacht Club is 1998 open class division winner Karakoa.

"It's going to be tough out there again because we're not just competing against ourselves, we're also challenging Mother Nature here," said MYC Commodore Ray Ordoveza, owner of Karakoa.

Expected to put up a strong challenge in the race ending April 6 at the Manila Bay is Great Britain, which is fielding six boats led by defending open race champion Stella, a Sydney 38 owned by Fred Kinmoth.

The President's Cup Regatta has five divisions—JRC open race, IRC ocean cruising (big boat), IRC cruising racer, cruiser and open multihull.

Cruiser racer reigning titlist Ja de Ros of American George Hackett will be up against local bets Vivaldi of Doni Altura and Lethal Weapon of Roberto Banares.

Philippine Navy's August Pearl hopes to improve on its second-place finish last year with the absence of champion Kiri, owned by Paul Pichler in the cruiser class. Jose Aranaz's Trio, which finished third last year, Juan Miguel Zosa's Margarita and Eduardo Limon's Lhayas are the other local entries.

Nine boats, which took part in the China Sea Race Series in Hong Kong last week, are also seeing action in the President's Cup Regatta which is supported by Smart, Nokia Phils., Philippine Sports Commission, Nestle Phils., Coca-Cola, Philippine Airlines, Tanduay, San Miguel Corp., Nike, ABS-CBN, Harbor Sentry Port Terminal and Neil Pryde.

Andy Soriano's Maligaya, the lone Philippine entry in the China Sea Race, Ian Nicolson's Intrigue of Stornoway, Glenn Smith's Catalina and John Blay's Windseeker are fielded in the premier cruising class.

Neil Pride's Hi-Fidelity, second-placer in the 1999 and 2000 President's Regatta, David Kong's Hocux Pocux 2, Frank Pong's Jelik, Sam Chan's Free Fire, Bill Rawson's Helsall II and Gerry Daughton's Outrageous are in the racing class category.

"We look forward to another successful staging of the President's Regatta this year. Both local and foreign sailors are ready for the tough battle ahead and we wish all of you the best of luck," said Ordoveza.

ERIK ARAZAS

LANCER QUALIFIER FROM AUSTRALIA

Robert Smeets of Australia chasing a forehand return during yesterday's qualifying round of the 13th Mitsubishi Lancer International Junior Tennis Championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. Smeets advanced by beating third seed Adrian Szatmary of Hungary, 6-3, 6-0. In other matches, fifth seed Korean Jun Woong upset top pick Amadeus Fulfor-Jones, 6-3, 6-4; Indian Divid Sharan defeated Taiwan Shih Chueh Chan, 6-2, 6-3; Australian Joel Kerley ousted Filipino Dino Ferrari, 6-1, 6-0. Main draw competitions begin today in both the boys and girls singles at 9 a.m. The Filipino entries in the event presented by adidas and supported by Viva Mineral Water, Wilson, Manila Midtown Hotel and the PSC are Czarina Mae Arevalo, Charise Godoy, Bernardine Sepulveda, Alyssa Labay and Anja Peter in girls play and Yannick Guba, Joseph Arcilla and Ruben Gonzales in the boys division.

All-Makati Rotary golf set April 12

THE 9TH edition of the All Makati Rotary Club Golf Classic will be held at Wack Wack West on April 12.

The popular annual golf tournament is hosted by the Rotary Club of Makati, with all the 64 Rotary Clubs in Rotary International District 3830 invited to play.

Each team is composed of five players whose four best scores account for the team score.

The organizing committee headed by President-Elect Robert Kuan and Fellowship and Sports Director Chito Cantada have put up prizes for the team and individual winners.

Valuable raffle prizes await lucky individual participants, topped by a P50,000 raffle prize. The prize can be used by the lucky Rotary Club to fund its community service project.

SPORTSWATCH

Sta. Lucia vs Alaska

STA. Lucia Realty is bidding to create a five-way traffic jam in the middle of the standings as it tackles Alaska today in the PBA Samsung Governors Cup at Philsports. A victory for the Realtors in the 6 p.m. face-off will put them level with Federal Express, Hapee-RP Team, San Miguel Beer and their prospective victims—the Aces—all carrying a 4-4 win-loss slate. But Sta. Lucia's dream of putting one over Alaska would practically be hard to accomplish as the Aces hired a new import to replace the ailing Muntrelle Dobbins.

Lakers win, Wizards lose

DEREK Fisher made two free throws with 15.9 seconds remaining to cap a 6-0 game-finishing run for the Lakers as Los Angeles beat San Antonio, 96-95, in NBA action. Shaquille O'Neal blocked a shot by Tim Duncan with about seven seconds left, and Duncan applauded because he thought he was fouled. But no whistle blew as the Lakers ran out the clock and the Spurs protested. In Washington, Steve Nash answered a charge from Michael Jordan with back-to-back long jumpers and a three-point play in the final three minutes as the Dallas Mavericks beat the Wizards, 110-103. Jordan started 0-for-7 and didn't score until he made a couple of free throws in the final minute of the third quarter. But he made three straight Wizards baskets, the last one tying the game at 96, then he missed his last two shots in the game's final two minutes. OTHER RESULTS: 86, Nets 85; Raptors 72, 76ers 70; Celtics 110, Bucks 80; Kings 92, Hawks 91; Pacers 100, Heat 81; Magic 97, Knicks 90; Pistons 86, Nuggets 82. *AP*

Pinoy Presidents' Cup

THE UP Brotherhood of the Filipinos '55 will stage the Pinoy Presidents' Cup Golf Tournament and Fellowship on April 6 at the Grand Makulot Golf Club inside Fernando air base in Lipa City, Batangas. Tee-off time is 5:30 a.m. Tournament host is Col. Marcel P. Panares '65, vice commander of Fernando air base. More than 100 golfers are expected to participate in this open tournament to honor the past presidents of the UP fraternity, its alumni foundation and its alumni chapters in Cebu, Davao and the US.

GameworX summer camp

THE FOURTH Youth Summer Camp kicks off on April 15 at the GameworX Inc., inside the Festival Supermall in Alabang, Muntinlupa City. Chiefly sponsored by GameworX and Pepsi, the Youth Summer Camp offers a month-long course in bowling, billiards, darts, in-line hockey, karatedo and dancesports. The best coaches on each discipline were chosen to impart their skills. Interested parties may call GameworX at 850-3551 or fax letter of intent at 850-3545.

Cortez defeats Macalino

BAGUIO CITY—Joselito Cortez of Baguio Tennis Club beat Juan Macalino, 6-2, 6-2, to barge into the finals of the unisex 10-under division against Aklo Sy in the 2002 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop here. Sy mastered Chynna Mamawal, 6-0, 6-1, in the Milo netfest organized by the Children's Tennis Workshop and supported by adidas and Sports Kids with sanction from the Philippine Tennis Association. In the boys' 12-under class, Gerard Ngo nipped Paul Papa, 6-0, 4-6, 7-6, to gain a championship match against Patrick Arevalo, a 6-2, 6-3 victor over Rodel Navarro. Andrew Tangalin continued his winning form in the boys' 14-under bracket following a 6-4, 4-6, 6-2 win over Jopy Mamawal.

Indiana-Maryland for 'NC' title

ATLANTA—The NCAA Tournament reaches a conclusion on April Fool's Day, but second-year coach Mike Davis said it was no joke that his underdog Indiana team had battled its way into a final match-up with Maryland.

The other 62 teams that took part in this annual tradition of "March Madness" have gone home, with just Davis and the Hoosiers left to battle the Terrapins and their veteran coach Gary Williams at the Georgia Dome Monday night (Tuesday morning in Manila).

"I look at us sometime, I'm like 'boy, this is a bad team,' but you can't measure heart, there's no way," Davis said on Sunday.

"You should shake your head because if you watch Oklahoma, Kansas and Maryland practice, you probably say 'there's no way these people...they can't win'."

But win Indiana has, led by a coach that was making $200 a week selling T-shirts out of the trunk of his car at the same time he was trying to launch his basketball coaching career at Miles College in Birmingham, Alabama a decade ago.

"It's a great feeling," Davis said. "How can you explain that, getting to this point? I felt like we could get here. Our guys won't give up. They just fight and fight and fight."

Indiana (25-11, No. 5 seed South Region), will be looking to keep its perfect record in title games on Monday — their first championship game since 1987.

History is on the Hoosiers side. Indiana has never lost in the championship game (5-0), claiming the national title in 1940, 1953, 1976, 1981 and 1987.

The Hoosiers also own a 12-2 all-time mark in Final Four play, the most successful winning percentage in NCAA history. But they are still the underdogs.

A No. 5 seed has never won the championship game and despite showing tremendous character and getting great production from bench players (Indiana had 41 points off the bench in Saturday's semifinal against Oklahoma), the Hoosiers are again not expected to win on Monday.

But Dane Fife, one of the team's leaders on the court, is unfazed. "We don't consider ourselves underdogs, although everybody else does," Fife said. "We believe we can win this basketball game, just like we have all season."

Indiana has been terrific shooting from three-point range, including a 9-for-15 percentage in Saturday's semifinal. ***Reuters***

M'daluyong derby today

SUPER big-time cockfight action starts today as Mandaluyong Coliseum's LCC 7-Cock Derby banners some 100 fights. Sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Washout Shampoo of Lakpue Drug.

Youthful sportsman Louie Cua is hosting the event.

The event is a fitting follow-up to the 7th Ucap Firebird Anito MB 7-Cock Derby (39 entries) on March 21, won by BJ Greenwood I of Ucap president Butch Macasaet and Bumble Bee Balbina of businessman Danding Cojuangco.

"Practically all the well-known big-time cockers and gamefowl breeders are competing in today's derby. This is one event every aficionado should not miss," derby manager Rey Lee said.

Manila SC smells success of pet program

ORGANIZERS of the 1st Manila Youth Games (MYG) are amazed about the enthusiasm stirred by the inaugural big city games that a week before opening day on Sunday, the Manila Sports Council (Masco) already smells the success of its pet program.

"The turnout is really amazing. Right from the early days when the registry books were opened, we started to anticipate a big turnout," said Arnold "Ali" Atienza, chair of the Masco, Manila City Hall's sports arm.

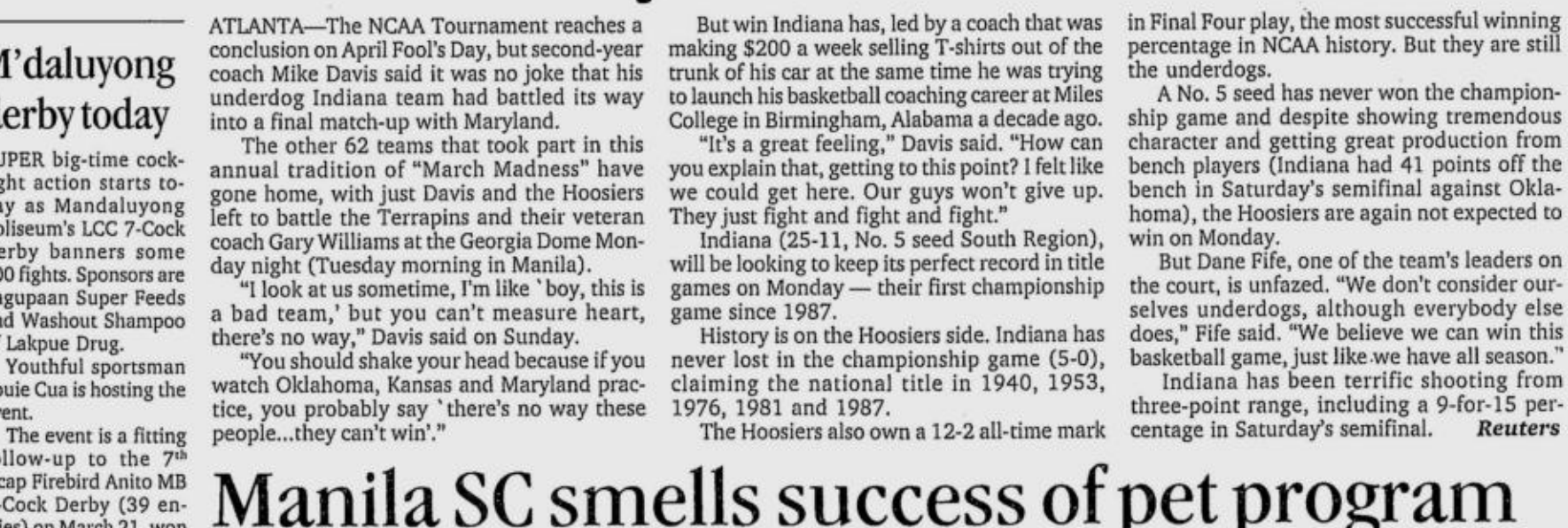
Practically, all 100 barangay zones in the six congressional districts of Manila are well presented in the MYG, which will have the historic Rizal Memorial Sports Complex as the main hub of competitions with the nearby San Andres Gym as satellite venue.

Over 250 teams consisting of at least 2,500 athletes were listed before the Lenten break, an indication, Atienza said, "of the Manileños awareness about the importance of sports and physical fitness."

Said Mayor Lito Atienza: "This is a healthful indication that Manila is really into sports. This should certainly complement our Buhayin ang Maynila program."

The MYG, which has gained the backing of the Philippine Sports Commission, Pagcor, WG&A Super Ferry, Smart Communications, Peak Taekwondo Equipment, Victor Sports, and PC-One Computers, caters to kids aged 12 and below, the same age group prescribed by the Philippine National Youth Games-Batang Pinoy.

Manila, with a token contingent of 44 athletes, ran away with the overall crown of the Batang Pinoy's third edition last December in Bacolod, an achievement that helped spur city hall to hold its own under-12 sports development program.



FACES OF VICTORY

Summer is sports and the winners are (from left) German Michael Schumacher (Ferrari) over his own brother Ralf (BMW Williams) in the Brazilian Grand Prix of Formula 1, American Andre Agassi over Swiss Roger Federer (6-3, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4) in the Nasdaq-100 Open, Swede Annika Sorenstam in the Kraft Nabisco Golf Open and Fijian Vijay Singh in the Houston Golf Open. Schumacher won his fourth Brazilian GP to lead the Formula 1 after three legs with 24 points, followed by Ralf with 16 and Colombian Juan Pablo Montoya 14. Agassi scored his record fifth Nasdaq-100 crown. It was Sorenstam's second straight victory at Nabisco (Dorothy Delasin was 7 shots off after a 73) while Singh pocketed his 10th PGA title. AP

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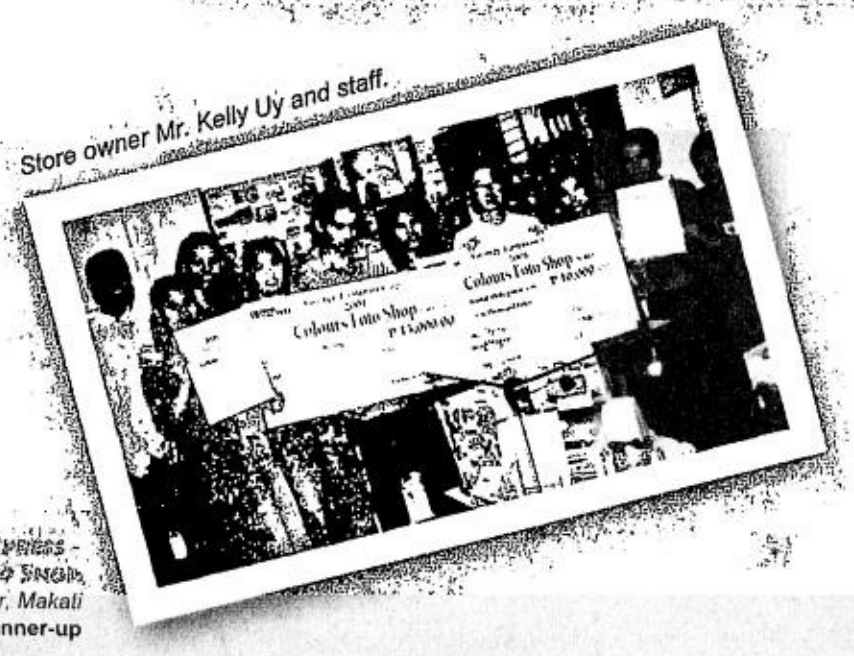

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Kodak EXPRESS

■ 35 PMMA officials, cadets up for hazing charges /A18

METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

HUNDREDS of fans queue up to view the remains of Rico Yan at the chapel of La Salle Greenhills. JOAN BONDOC

Rico had a little drink, no drugs, police say

Foundation to make late star's dream come true

By TJ Burgonio, Leah Salterio and Christian V. Esguerra

RICO YAN did not take drugs and drank only a little alcohol shortly before he died, police confirmed yesterday.

Police made the confirmation even as the late star's family announced they have started a foundation "to create more Rico Yans," role models like the popular star who died in his sleep on Good Friday.

Chief Supt. Jose Marlowe Pedregosa, director of the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory, said medico-legal experts found no traces of illegal drugs in Yan's blood samples.

The disclosure came in the wake of persistent speculations that the 27-year-old actor died from an overdose of the designer drug Ecstasy.

Pedregosa also said .07 percent of ethyl alcohol, which he said was equivalent to two bottles of beer or two shots of whisky, was found in the young actor's blood specimen.

A person is considered drunk if he has consumed .15 percent of ethyl alcohol, he explained.

Pedregosa, who earlier declined to release autopsy results on the request of Yan's family, confirmed medico-legal findings that Yan died from hemorrhagic pancreatitis resulting in cardiac arrest.

Rico Yan is dead, but his family is making sure his dream will still come true.

The family has decided to put up the Rico Yan Youth Foundation, according to his elder brother Bobby.

"When Rico was still alive, he encouraged the youth to stay away from drugs and to engage in worthwhile activities," Bobby said. "He was one example that a young person cannot be corrupted."

Bobby said it was his brother's dream to put up a foundation for the youth.

"Rico did his job," Bobby said. "He did a lot. He gave so much of himself to people. Now, it's up to us to continue his dreams."

He said the foundation is also "for all those who love and trust Rico."

Bobby himself will head the foundation. Rico's fellow contract stars at ABS-CBN will be honorary members.

The Yan family requested sympathizers not to send flowers to the wake but instead to make a donation to the newly Rico Yan Youth Foundation.

Bobby, who shared a condominium unit with Rico in Greenhills, San Juan, said he has been meeting a lot of people at the wake who said his brother had helped them in the past. "It's just overwhelming," Bobby said. "He touched the lives of a lot of people. I didn't know that every time he left the house, he would be out there somewhere helping someone.

"Every time I see the faces of the people, I see my brother in them. I will be happy because I know my brother lives in them forever."

Rico died in his sleep on Good Friday in his cottage at Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan. Doctors said he suffered from acute hemorrhagic pancreatitis.

Rico Yan fans and the merely curious continued to troop to the La Salle Greenhills chapel, where the star's remains lie in state.

The actor's family has allowed the fans to view his remains only from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Rico will be buried Thursday morning at the Manila Memorial Park in Sucat, Parañaque after a 9 a.m. Mass at the La Salle Greenhills chapel.

Donations to the Rico Yan Youth Foundation can be made by calling 723-5996, 425-1893 or 426-6001, local 4081.

Parañaque police yesterday announced they would "hold traffic and open thoroughfares" for the young actor's burial.

Supt. Ruben Catabona, Parañaque police chief, said he would mobilize the entire police force of the city, plus a contingent from the Southern Police District and the city's traffic bureau, to facilitate traffic and secure the affected areas.

The Yan family earlier announced it would not allow fans and media people into Rico's burial. Still, Catabona and his men are expecting a big crowd at the Manila Memorial Park during the interment.

Catabona said he will meet with the Yan family and cemetery officials today to discuss the preparations for the burial.

According to him, police will secure the portion of Sucat Road near McDonald's and BF Homes to meet the funeral march that will come from the La Salle chapel in Greenhills. From the McDonald's corner, police would man the road leading to the memorial park, the police chief said.

What is pancreatitis?

By Armand N. Nocum

ONLY 50 percent of those who die of "bangungot" suffer from hemorrhagic pancreatitis, the cause of Rico Yan's death, Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit explained yesterday.

According to Dayrit's explanation on several radio programs yesterday, pancreatitis is caused by the inflammation of the pancreas. Bleeding occurs when acid that is meant to digest food spills out of the pancreas and damages other vital organs, resulting in cardiac arrest.

To avoid pancreatitis, people should "not eat too much at night," he said. After eating, they should allow their system to digest the food for at least two hours before going to sleep, he said.

He said *bangungot* is "prevalent" among Filipinos, but nobody can say why.

Health Undersecretary Antonio Lopez said that while *bangugot* also occurs in other countries, there is a high incidence of it here.

Lopez said there have been theories that this is caused by Filipino's love for "patis" and "bagoong," but this is not backed by medical research.

Neither is *bangungot* caused by snoring, he said.

"It is not due to snoring," Lopez said. "Many people snore and are still able to wake up."

Rico Yan's friends earlier said they heard what they thought was his snoring a few hours before he was found dead. Lopez said Yan could have been in pain.

A caller from Western Visayas yesterday told radio dzRH that one remedy for *bangungot* could be to "pull (the sleeping) man's sex organ."

Report of Atienza scolding untrue, spokesman claims

By Jerome Aning

A SPOKESPERSON for Manila Mayor Lito Atienza simply blamed it on a "slow news day" when reports that President Macapagal-Arroyo scolded the mayor hit the papers yesterday.

City spokesperson Armand Sebastian denied reports that Ms Macapagal scored the mayor allegedly when he asked the President for funds to rehabilitate an area in Tondo that was razed by a fire, leaving at least 3,000 families homeless.

That is "an exaggeration," Sebastian said.

Sebastian said contrary to earlier reports, Mayor Atienza was at the Baseco Compound directing operations at the height of the fire on Black Saturday.

"He did not even go on vacation," Sebastian told reporters. "How could a mayor working throughout the Holy Week break be scolded?"

But Sebastian did not say if it was true that Atienza asked the President for funds to rehabilitate the area.

In a statement, Atienza yesterday ordered the city's chief engineer and urban settlements officer to finish the reclamation work at the Baseco compound within the month.

Last Saturday's fire at the compound caused about P15 million in damages.

Atienza reportedly arrived at Baseco about 10 a.m., while the President reached the area about 11:30 a.m.

As soon as he arrived, the mayor quickly ordered the release of relief goods as well as the setting up of temporary shelters for the victims, according to the spokesman.

"(Atienza) even went back to the area the next morning to survey the damage, and (he) made sure that the needs of the victims were met," Sebastian said.

Although he deplored the fire, Atienza said the tragedy should be taken by City Hall as an opportunity to hasten the reclamation and development work in the area and "do it properly."

City Engineer Magdiwang Recato and Architech Deogracias Tablan of the urban settlements office are also coordinating closely with Col. Francisco Bravo of the Philippine Army's engineering brigade to finish the work.

Atienza said that the southeast portion, which is still marshland, and the western part, both measuring 10 hectares, will be reclaimed. Once reclaimed, the two areas will be subdivided and the lots awarded to residents. City Hall has already conducted a ground survey or census of residents as well as a physical inventory of the site.

Approximately 1,600 structures connected by makeshift wooden bridges or catwalks, housing some 3,000 families, were gutted in the fire.

The total area affected by the blaze is approximately 10 hectares, according to the mayor's office.

The victims have been provided temporary shelters at the Marcela Agoncillo Elementary School and in a nearby basketball court.

Fifth district councilors Kim Atienza and Cita Astals will also file a resolution placing Baseco under a state of calamity in support of the mayor's relief and rehabilitation efforts.

In defense of the PMA 'goat'

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

EVERY year, the graduation at the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) is a front-page story. No less than the president of the republic attends the graduation ceremonies.

PMA graduates, held in high esteem by the citizenry, start out as second lieutenants or ensigns in the major commands of the Armed Forces: Army, Air Force, Navy.

The high regard by the public for the PMAyers is well deserved.

Graduates of the PMA are among the country's best and brightest students.

* * *

My greatest disappointment in life is not being able to enter the Philippine Military Academy. I wanted to follow in the footsteps of my father who was a retired colonel of the defunct Philippine Constabulary.

I took the PMA entrance exams three times, and three times I failed. Mathematics, the major subject at the PMA, was my Waterloo in school.

I would have swapped places anytime with the PMA "goat," the cadet who graduates at the tail-end of his class. The goat is the opposite of the PMA class valedictorian. He is what is called in Tagalog kulelat.

* * *

I don't find it funny that Cadet First Class Gregory Inumpa Jr., the goat of Banyuhay Class of 2002, was made to deliver a speech which was applauded by his classmates. Actually, they made fun out of him.

But Inumpa might yet have the last laugh many years from now.

Many PMA goats made good when they were already in the field. Some have even outshone their classmates.

* * *

The goat of PMA Class 1970, Julius Javier, outranked his classmates by a mile after a few years of fighting Moro and communist insurgents in Mindanao. He and the class valedictorian, Irwin Ver, were promoted together to full-fledged colonel while their classmates were still majors.

The best-known goat that the PMA has produced is Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, a member of Class 1961.

He became Armed Forces chief of staff, a four-star rank, while his classmates were still holding the ranks of brigadier general (one star) and colonel.

He eventually became a senator.

* * *

The greatest goat the US Military Academy at West Point in New York has produced is Lt. Gen. George Patton.

Patton led the US Army tank corps in the war in Europe. He was a good tactician when it came to tank warfare.

He became more popular than the West Point class valedictorian in his time.

* * *

Even if he graduated at the tail-end of his class, the PMA goat would still surpass the cum laudes of civilian colleges and universities.

PMA cadets study under the most difficult conditions. They are expected to pass daily quizzes and examinations under intense pressure. Most of them, especially the first year cadets, can hardly study their lessons for the following day because their upperclassmen make them do personal errands or beat them up.

That's why only cadets with the best minds and physique graduate from the PMA.

* * *

Among the most abusive cops that have come to my attention are probably those who arrested Renato Tandoc, 40, of Barangay Tejeros, Makati City, on March 19.

The cops barged into the house of Tandoc looking for a woman who allegedly sought refuge inside the house while she was being pursued by the cops.

Tandoc was taking a bath when he heard the commotion. He came out of the bathroom, a towel wrapped around his waist.

* * *

When Tandoc asked the cops whether they had a court warrant to search his house, the policemen got insulted and arrested him. They didn't give him the opportunity to put on his clothes. They dragged Tandoc out of the house naked.

One of them even held Tandoc—listen to this—by his penis and testicles when he resisted! Faggot!

To justify their abusive act, the policemen filed a trumped-up case of drug pushing against Tandoc. They even arrested Tandoc's brother, who was asking that they allow him to put on clothes, for "interfering in police functions."

So that their superiors will know, the cops are SPO1 Marvin Fijilan, PO2 Angelo Aguas, PO2 Virgilio Acosta, PO2 Leo Cabrang, SPO2 Wilmer Antonio and PO2 Rodrigo Igno.

* * *

Ciriaco Sabilano, a security guard at the Government Services Insurance System (GSIS), has allegedly been terrorizing four president general managers and getting away with it.

Only recently Sabilano shouted in public at Winston Garcia, incumbent GSIS president-general manager, "Winston, barat (tightwad)."

This was after Garcia had disapproved a proposed P30,000 cash gift for all GSIS employees. Garcia thinks GSIS employees are among the highest paid and most pampered employees in the entire government bureaucracy. They get bonuses every other month.

* * *

Sabilano used to be a bodyguard of former Quezon City Mayor Jun Simon. When Simon lost power, he recommended Sabilano to the GSIS.

Now, Sabilano is chief of the security division of the GSIS. He is an officer of the GSIS Employees Union.

Garcia suspended him after the incident. The guy should be fired.

Naia-3 project to displace 4,000 students

By Christian V. Esguerra

OVER 4,000 students of the Pasay City South High School will be displaced when the Ninoy Aquino International Airport opens its new Terminal 3 at the end of the year.

Addressing the students during the school's graduation rites, Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad said he had been told that the school will be moved to a flood-prone portion of Villamor to give way to the airport project.

Trinidad and other city officials have rejected the idea and asked the Bases Conversion and Development Authority to provide a better relocation site for the school.

"We wouldn't allow our youth and their education to be jeopardized just because of the (airport) project," said Councilor Allan Panaligan, head of the committees on engineering and public works and on patrimony land use and zoning.

Panaligan said the local government is willing to shoulder the expenses for the construction of a new campus, provided it is allowed to choose a site within the Villamor compound.

The impending transfer of the Pasay high school is part of the snowballing "problems" allegedly caused by Naia authorities' failure to coordinate the Terminal 3 project with the local government, according to Panaligan.

The city government and the BCDA, Panaligan said, could have settled the transfer long ago had the Naia informed local officials of the areas to be affected by the Terminal 3 project.

Panaligan said the Pasay high school has to be transferred since it will be affected by the widening of roads leading to the new terminal. Pasay is currently engaged in a row with the Naia over the proposed transfer of an aviation gas depot in the city's Barangay 201, and the construction of transmission lines at Villamor.

Both projects are vital to the new airport terminal set to open in December. Residents fear the depot and the transmission lines might endanger their lives.

Cops arrest 2 for setting on fire Baseco Compound

MANILA policemen arrested Sunday night two arson suspects who allegedly started the fire that gutted more than 3,000 shanties in Tondo, Manila over the weekend.

Norayda M. Fermin, 37, an eatery vendor, and her cousin Abdul Radsak Jack Kasan, 33, a tricycle driver, both of Baseco Compound, Tondo, Manila, were nabbed after they were accused of starting the fire, said Chief Insp. Jimmy A. Tiu, head of the Western Police District-theft and robbery section.

The huge conflagration on Saturday night, which destroyed P15 million worth of property, began in the house owned by Fermin but rented to Kasan, Tiu added.

Tiu and his men, SPO2 Ernesto Sabas, SPO3 Silvano Modo, SPO1 Cris Carillo, and PO3 Ernesto Macaraig, arrested the two suspects in Baseco Compound around 7 p.m. after community leaders pointed to their location.

"They weren't in hiding," Tiu said.

But Kasan told investigators that the fire began due to an electrical short circuit inside his house.

"He said that a short circuit in the electric wire caused a spark and this caused the ceiling to light up in flames. The ceiling was covered with plastic materials," Tiu said.

"Kasan brought out his wife and then went back to put out the flames with the help of his neighbors. But after they threw water on the fire, the flames further spread," Tiu added. *Philip Tubeza*

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TUESDAY APRIL 2 912-8983

35 PMMA officials, cadets up for hazing charges

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation charged eight officials of the Philippine Merchant Marine Academy and 27 PMMA cadets for the death of an 18-year-old cadet during an alleged hazing incident in Zambales in May 2001.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said the 35 PMMA officials and cadets were accused of violating the anti-hazing law when PMMA probationary midshipman Fernando C. Balidoy Jr., a resident of Western Bicutan, Taguig, Metro Manila, was killed allegedly during initiation rite in San Narciso, Zambales.

Wycoco identified the culpable PMMA officials as Capt. Virginio R. Aris, Dominador D. Bayados, Gerry P. Doctor, Manny Ferrer, Dennies Velasco, Ronaldo G. Magsino, Kruzaldo Mabborang, and Dominador Operio.

Wycoco said charges were also filed against cadets Roel N. Alarcio, Aldwin A. Alvares, Randy D. Areno, Nestor C. Babagay, Rommel B. Burce, Maryciel S. Callejo, Joel L. Canlas, Samuel N. dela Cruz, Angle Erive Jr., Anthony Estilles, Nathaniel P. Gapas, Robert I. Gattoc, Ronald Q. Labilles, Leonardo Lacandula;

Hermes F. Madayag Jr., Henly D. Martines, Leotharius C. Montes, Ronald M. Papa, Romy D. Paredes, Loyd Francies D. Pascual, Rudence G. Reyes, Joebelle D. Robosa, Jed Nicholas Simpas, Brando T. Tabora, Herzon L. Valenzuela, Edmond B. Varona, and Jessica Joy R. Angeles.

The Zambales provincial prosecutor also recommended the filing of obstruction of justice charges against PMMA Doctor Simeon Antonio Hidalgo, the physician who first examined Balidoy.

Hidalgo said in his medical report that the victim died of "cardio-respiratory arrest," but acording to doctors of the PNP Crime Laboratory who conducted an autopsy on the victim, Balidoy died of "massive pulmonary hemorrhage secondary to blunt traumatic injuries."

Wycoco said the NBI investigated the case after the victim's father filed a complaint through Dante Jimenez, chair of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption.

Lawyer Vicente de Guzman III, chief of the NBI Special Action Unit, said the victim died on May 2, 2001, when the PMMA was supposed to conduct an "indoctrination and orientation" program for Class 2005 at the academy complex in San Narciso.

The suspected cadets were members of the "orientation staff" tasked to "welcome" the new cadets who passed the mental and physical exams on May 1.

De Guzman said the new cadets were assigned to their respective platoons and quarters for the one month "orientation program" that was to last until June 1, 2001.

But on the second day of the program, Balidoy died. Hidalgo pronounced him dead at 12:55 p.m. due to "cardio-respiratory arrest."

Besides the massive pulmonary hemorrhage, the PNP doctors also found that the victim's other organs—like his kidneys, spleen, and pancreas—also showed heavy internal bleeding.

Some of Balidoy's fellow cadets told investigators they were slapped on the back with a slipper or shoe, punched in the stomach, and slammed on the wall.

They were allegedly also "forced to do foolish things and arduous activities on their bunks," and to stay "unnecessarily under the scorching heat of the summer sun" during military drills.

The PMMA officials and cadets denied that there was any hazing during their "orientation program."

But the NBI found them culpable and filed charges against them before the Zambales Provincial Prosecutor's Office.

Group accuses SC of bending its own rules

By Alcuin Papa

A CIVIC group accused the Supreme Court's third division of violating its own rules when it issued its decision on the Jancom garbage deal last month.

In a March 20 letter to lawyer Ismael Khan Jr., spokesperson for Chief Justice Hilario Davide, Gideon Javier of the Citizen's National Network Against Poverty and Corruption (CNN-APC) said Justice Antonio Carpio and the entire third division of the Supreme Court headed by Justice Jose A.R. Melo "violated" SC Administrative Circular No. 12-94-A by refusing to re-raffle the controversial Jancom case.

Javier stressed in his letter that Carpio had served as counsel for French company Vivendi, a partner of Jancom in the garbage deal a few years ago. He also Carpio was the presidential legal counsel when the Jancom deal was allegedly "finalized."

According to the SC circular, "whenever a member of a division (served) as counsel or member of a law firm which served as counsel in a case before the Division ... or was a former official of a government agency or private entity which was a party to a case before the Division, said member shall inhibit himself from the case, and the same shall be raffled among the members of the two other divisions of the Court."

The circular was approved in December 10, 1996 by then Chief Justice Andres Narvasa.

On Jan. 30, the SC's Third Division promulgated a decision on the Jancom garbage deal saying the deal was "valid and perfected" and can be implemented as soon as it is signed by the President.

The CNN-APC and other groups roundly criticized the decision.

The groups also said the deal was anomalous and that the case should have been raffled off to another division of the Supreme Court.

But according to Khan, spokesperson for Chief Justice Davide, Carpio "neither concurs nor dissents" with the decision of the Third Division. "The note that a Justice scribbles on top of his signature, that he took no part (in the promulgation of the decision), signifies that he absolutely inhibited and excused himself from the deliberation and decision-writing of the case," Khan said in a statement to a newspaper.

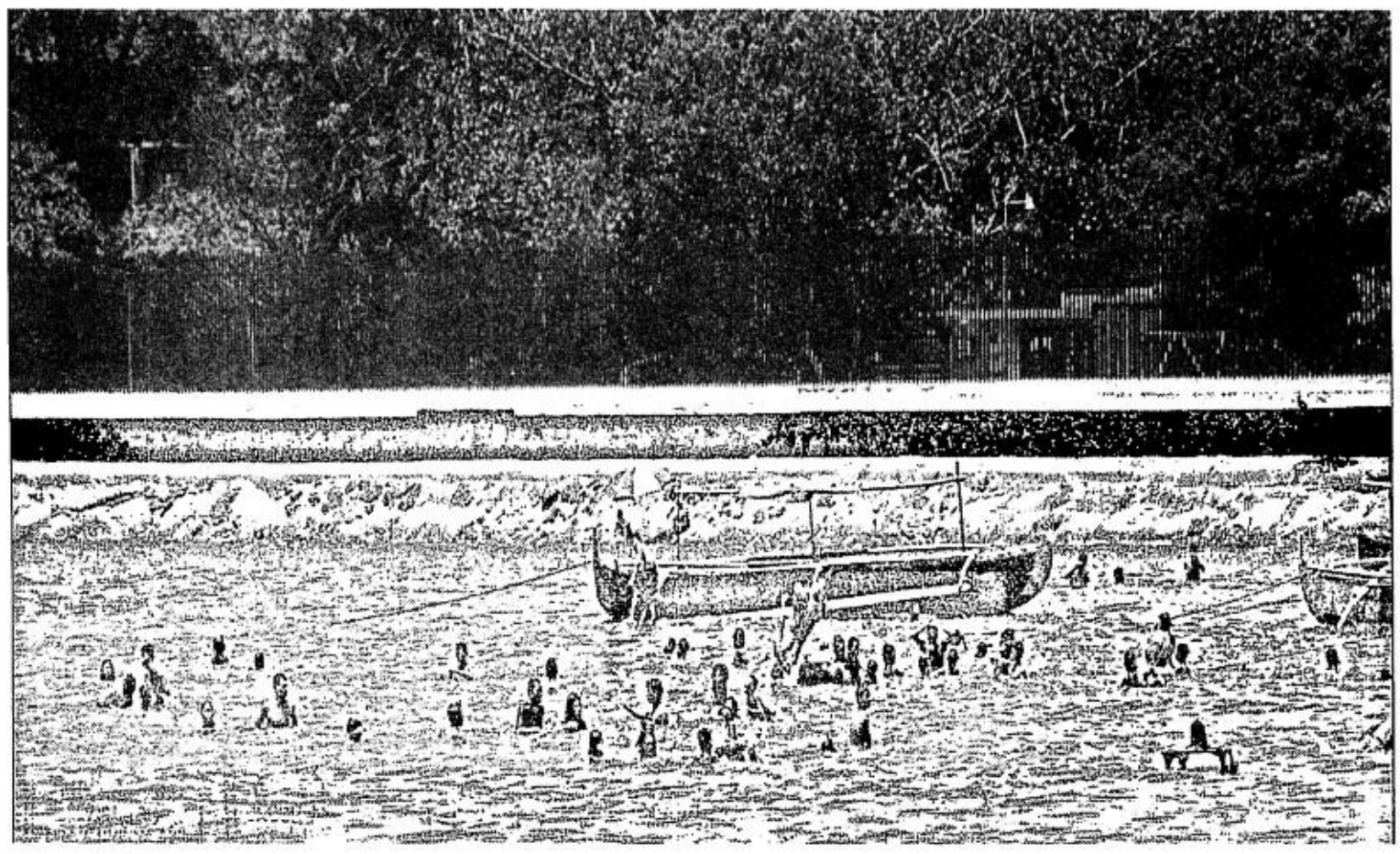
Residents push for waste firm's closure

RESIDENTS of a village in Plaridel, Bulacan have asked Mayor Jaime Vistan to order the closure of a waste treatment facility which they said were polluting their area.

In a petition, they said their health and welfare are endangered with the continued operation of the waste treatment facility Enviro-Means Industries Inc. (EMII).

The firm, which has a waste treatment facility in Barangay Sipat, Plaridel, has been taking on wastes from more than 200 companies in Metro Manila, Laguna, Cavite, Batangas and Bataan.

Residents said they were alarmed when they learned of the possible harmful effects of the firm's operation, following the toxic poisoning reported in San Jose del Monte City, also in Bulacan. ***Carmela Reyes, with a report from Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***



JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

SUMMER DRAW

Sun-weary residents of Metro Manila are not like mad dogs and Englishmen who prefer to soak up the noonday sun. They are a pushover to the beckoning sea. Here they are shown immersed in Manila Bay off the United States Embassy compound on Roxas Boulevard.

'Pirates' are killing off small video rental owners

By Jerome Aning

TWO years ago, Sherwin invested nearly P200,000—a substantial portion of his life savings—to set up a modest video rental shop in Mandaluyong City. Today, unable to recover his investment, the 27-year-old entrepreneur is thinking of closing up shop within the year and taking on another business.

Noel, 36, has been running a VHS and VCD rental store in Makati City for six years. But with the steady decline in revenues, he has since regarded this trade as a mere sideline.

Chester, 25, and his younger brother used to run the biggest videotape rental business in Las Piñas City. Now, after laying off five of their employees, they have resorted to hand-carrying tapes and VCDs to their remaining loyal clients.

Noel has a stock of 700 to 800 VHS tapes. Before the spread of piracy, he earns P1,500 a day, even with eight competitors in his neighborhood. Today, even if his store is the only one left operating, he considers himself lucky if he earns P400 a day.

Noel and Chester said they hoped to recoup their losses last Christmas, but that did not happen.

"People nowadays, even those in depressed areas, would rather buy very cheap, pirated VCDs rather than rent one," they tell the INQUIRER. This is the reason, they said, why sellers of tapes and VCDs recently cut their prices drastically.

"We can lower our rent prices but not that low, since we also have to earn," Chester said. "Rather than increase our stocks, we would rather concentrate on promoting our movies."

"And since VCD players, especially those made locally or from China, have also become affordable," Sherwin added, "our customers could now easily afford to have their own movie collection."

Sherwin said he used to earn P1,200 a day, but now he considers it a miracle if he earns P200. He and the other owners have other expenses to consider, such as electricity, rent, rate of depreciation, and publicity materials.

Noel said he initially thought that the rising number of video rental stores coupled with the steady rate of demand from the same number of customers were to blame for shrinking profits. Chester said he also thought cable television networks were the culprits.

Now, both lay the blame squarely on video piracy.

Sherwin said video shop owners are really the original "pirates." But he was quick to add that they were only forced to resort to copying their original tapes and VCDs principally, to preserve their businesses and to cope with rising demand.

Chester said he decided to "specialize" in his rentals by collecting and buying certain movie categories that are not prone to being pirated but are attractive to many customers in his community. He said he sold his sci-fi and horror stocks because these are the genres that are prone to piracy.

Chester recently bought a motorcycle in an attempt to revive his business. He listed all his tape and VCD titles on a sheet of paper and all his customers have to do is to call his shop and wait for the titles to be delivered right to their doorsteps.

Sherwin said the decimation of small shops like his has been accelerated by jealous big-time competitors, which he claims are positioning themselves to acquire the lion's share of the shrinking market.

He said a nearby rival instigated a raid on his shop by agents of the Videogram Regulatory Board. As a result, hundreds of Sherwin's VHS tapes which the agents branded as "illegally copied" were confiscated. He was also fined P10,000.

Sherwin admitted he copied some of his original tapes, but added they were "personal reserve copies" which he could use anytime since his customers would often lose the expensive original tapes they had rented.

VRB requires a specific number of tapes and VCDs to be maintained and purchased monthly by registered video rental owners. Sherwin said many small stores could hardly afford to increase their stocks because of the slowdown in business, but some unscrupulous VRB agents insist on imposing this rule.

After the raid, Sherwin closed shop and opened a new but unnamed outlet in a "secret" location in downtown Mandaluyong. There, he said, he earns a meager income from his few loyal customers.

Writing a book seminar

THE ATV Speakers Network is conducting a program titled "How to Write and Publish Your Book", Sunday, April 7, 2002, 8-12 noon. Topics include: Why Write a Book, Getting Started, Deciding on the Subject Matter, Determining Readership, Gathering Materials, Writing Clearly, Drafting, Revising and Editing the Book, Financing the Project, Copyright Rules and Procedures, and Marketing the Book. For details, call Liezl or Josie at 896-8790.

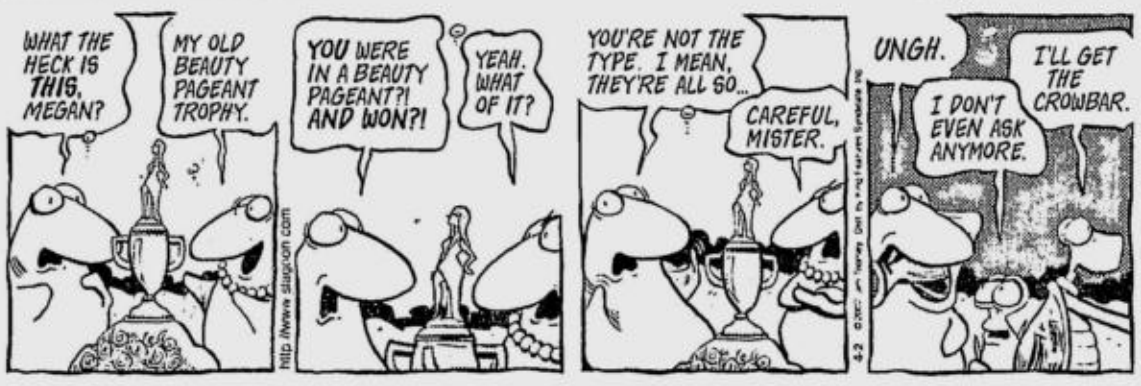
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS

A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY



SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

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BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

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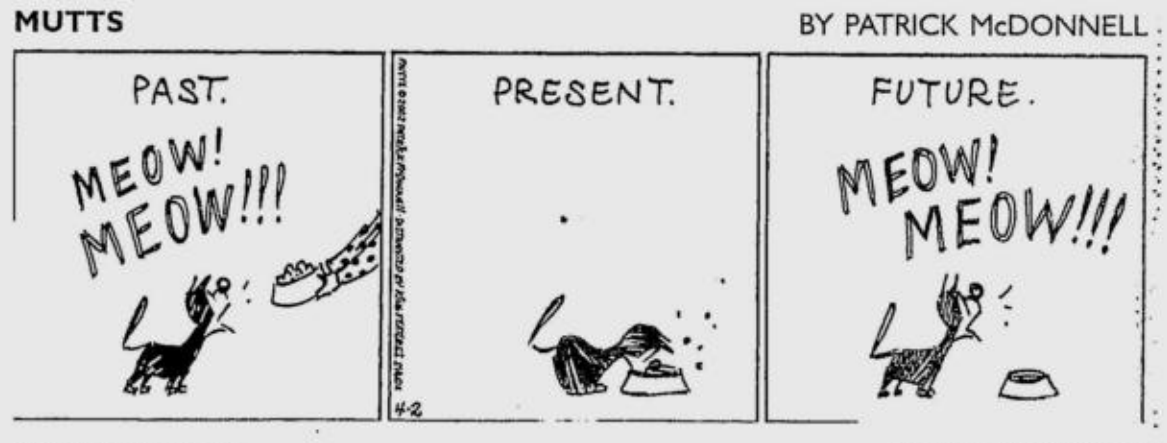


KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Billy Dean, Debralee Scott, Emmylou Harris, Marvin Gaye
Happy Birthday: You will be lucky when it comes to work and investments this year. Family expenditures will be tempting, but think twice before you spend money. If you fall into the easy-come, easy-go syndrome you will have nothing to show for your hard work and smart investing. Your numbers are 7, 12, 22, 28, 31, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Today's a great day to travel, investigate or just nose around. Get involved in projects that will enable you to visit other locations. You need a change of scenery.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't spend too much on a luxury item. Your financial state is not stable enough to take a risk when someone you care about tries to borrow money. Say no.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Emotional matters may come to a head but don't be dismayed. You'll have all the answers and you will be prepared to sort through any differences.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Pull out all the stops and focus on getting ahead today. You will have a big heart and want to help those around you but first take care of your own duties.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take control and make all your plans personally. If you do everything yourself you will be sure to get the results you are looking for. Travel or involvement in a convention should be considered.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You may need to put in some long hours in order to sort through the mess you left at home. Check over your personal papers and make whatever changes are required. If you are careful today it will pay off later.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You will discover something interesting about your family background today if you talk to relatives or family friends. Talk to someone who can shed some light on your past as well as your future.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Spend time with people who you find interesting, enlightening and challenging. Your talents will be recognized today if you aren't too shy to unveil your abilities.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll be the center of attention if you get out and mingle. Your ability to charm everyone you meet will result in all sorts of new opportunities.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't be silly and overreact to a situation going on around you. Focus on whatever project will bring you the best returns and don't even entertain the thought of getting into a useless debate with someone.

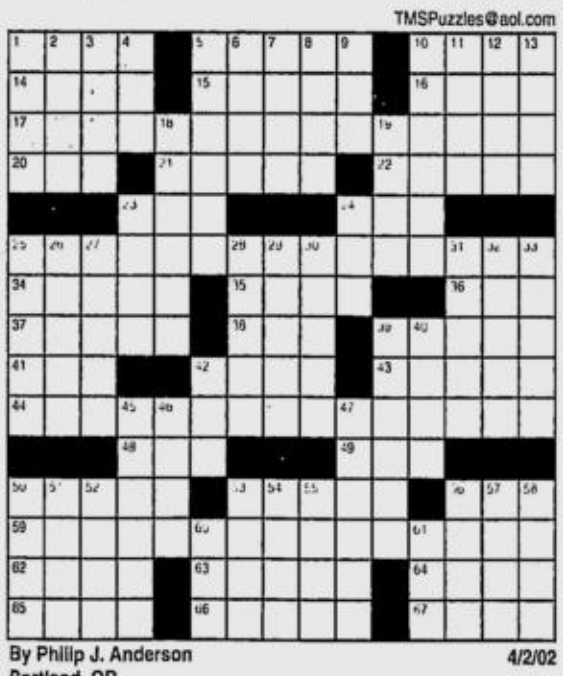
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your involvement in helping others will bring you great satisfaction. Social activity will be favorable providing it will present a worthy challenge that will get your heart racing.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You may want to think about your future a little before you commit to something that may not be the best for you. Read, research and take your time; don't let anyone bully you into making a snap decision.

Birthday Baby: Your beliefs will play an important part in your life. You will have a well-developed intuition and insight, and whenever you are faced with difficulties, help will simply appear.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



ACROSS
1 Detective's assignment
5 Cheerful tunes
10 Announce
14 In the center of
15 Accustom
16 Hautboy
17 April 2 birthday celebrant
20 Either part of a fly?
21 Expunge
22 Snaking curves
23 Flaw
24 Resp. disease
25 1951 17A across film, with "The"
34 Egg-shaped
35 Melville's whaler
36 Southern constellation
37 Stacked
38 Laver of tennis
39 Delhi dresses
41 Building extension
42 Sicilian volcano
43 Mystery excuse?
44 1980 17A film
48 One Gershwin
49 Put on
50 Temperate
53 Where lovers walk?
56 '94 and '97 U.S. Open winner
59 1984 17A film
62 Brewer's grain
63 Levi's material
64 500-mi. event
65 Writer/director Kazan
66 Oozes
67 No bid

DOWN
1 Actors collectively
2 French friends
3 Father
4 Writer LeShan
5 Ogled
6 Andes resident
7 Drags
8 Loyal
9 Black-and-white Antarctic whale
10 Foreign representative
11 Burrows and Fortas
12 Mislay
13 A smaller amount
18 Tilted
19 17th-century actress Gwyn
23 Dole (out)
24 Little lie
25 Strider
26 Kansas City college
27 Frankie of The 4 Seasons
28 Dirt
29 French river
30 Attacked
31 Cheech's surname
32 Small antelope
33 Simple
39 Zen enlightenment
40 King or Ladd
42 Greek letter
45 Gato nap
46 Transgresses
47 Language quirks
50 Identical
51 Hyalite
52 Java's neighbor
53 Pointed arch
54 Oahu goose
55 Leaning precariously
56 Writer Ferber
57 Kettle covers
58 Comments
60 Mad. Ave. offerings
61 Chill

By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR
4/2/02

Monday's Puzzle Solved

D	O	O	M		A	C	M	E		M	A	C	H	O
I	S	L	E		B	O	I	L		O	G	L	E	D
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C	O	O	L	E	D	O	N	E	S	H	E	E	L	S
				T	E	A			T	E	E			
C	A	C	T	U	S		S	L	U	R		G	O	D
O	V	O	I	D		T	I	E	D		L	O	G	O
W	A	R	M	E	D	O	N	E	S	H	E	A	R	T
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7	WE WERE SOLDIERS
8	GOT 2 BELIEVE

SM CENTERPOINT
7148522 -7161416

1	HARI NG SELDA
2	WE WERE SOLDIERS
3	ICE AGE
4	JOHN Q
5	BLADE 2
6	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
7	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
8	ICE AGE
9	TIME MACHINE
10	GOT 2 BELIEVE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	BANDITS
2	SNAKE CHARMER
3	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
4	TIME MACHINE
5	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
6	GOT 2 BELIEVE
7	ICE AGE
8	BLADE 2
9	HARI NG SELDA
10	HARI NG SELDA
11	WE WERE SOLDIERS
12	ICE AGE

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	TIME MACHINE
2	BLADE 2
3	JOHN Q
4	ICE AGE
5	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
6	ICE AGE
7	WE WERE SOLDIERS
8	BANDITS
9	HARI NG SELDA
10	GOT 2 BELIEVE
11	BLADE 2
12	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED

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1	ICE AGE
2	BLADE 2
3	HARI NG SELDA
4	ICE AGE
5	WE WERE SOLDIERS
6	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
7	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
8	JOHN Q
9	BLADE 2
10	TIME MACHINE
11	GOT 2 BELIEVE
12	HARI NG SELDA

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9285452

1	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
2	WE WERE SOLDIERS
3	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
4	HARI NG SELDA
5	JOHN Q
6	TIME MACHINE
7	ICE AGE
8	BLADE 2
9	CLOSED
10	CLOSED
11	CLOSED
12	CLOSED

SM SOUTHMALL
6066888

1	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
2	BANDITS
3	BLADE 2
4	ICE AGE
5	GOT 2 BELIEVE
6	JOHNQ
7	HARI NG SELDA
8	TIME MACHINE
9	WE WERE SOLDIERS
10	ICE AGE

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1	D-TOX
2	WE WERE SOLDIERS
3	NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
4	JIMMY NEUTRON
5	13 GHOSTS
6	EVA
7	HARI NG SELDA
8	ICE AGE

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
2	CLOSED
3	ICE AGE
4	HARI NG SELDA
5	WE WERE SOLDIERS
6	NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
7	CLOSED
8	EVA

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
2	ICE AGE
3	TIME MACHINE
4	GOT 2 BELIEVE
5	RAT RACE
6	HARI NG SELDA

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	ICE AGE
2	BLADE 2
3	HARI NG SELDA
4	TIME MACHINE

SM CINEMA GUADALUPE
8820984

1	HARI NG SELDA
2	TIME MACHINE
3	BLADE 2

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	TIME MACHINE
2	ICE AGE
3	BLADE 2
4	HARI NG SELDA

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1	JIMMY NEUTRON
2	HARI NG SELDA
3	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
4	D-TOX
5	NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
6	ICE AGE

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3 ICE AGE	3 BLADE 2	6 ICE AGE	3 ICE AGE	3 THE TIME MACHINE
4 BLADE 2	GUARANTEED SEATS	7 A BEAUTIFUL MIND	4 LANI ON SATGE APRIL 12, 13, 19, 20, 26 & 27 9:00 PM	4 A BEATIFUL MIND
				5 ICE AGE

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7 GOLD (DOLBY)	BLADE 2
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9	JIMMY NEUTRON
10	ICE AGE

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4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
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1	TIME MACHINE
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4	BLADE 2
5	BIBINGKA
6	ICE AGE
7	
8	

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2	MASARAP HABANG MAINIT
3	SENSUAL

Spring
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1	TIME MACHINE
A	

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 836.4301 loc. 3376

1	HARI NG SELDA
2	TIME MACHINE
3	
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8508

1 (DOLBY)	HARI NG SELDA
2	
3	
4	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
5	JOHN Q
6	SNAKE CHARMER
7 (DTS)	ICE AGE
8 (SDDS)	TIME MACHINE
9 (DOLBY)	BLADE 2

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	HARI NG SELDA

Gotesco Grand Central
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2	HARI NG SELDA
3	GOT 2 BELIEVE
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5	SNAKE CHARMER
6 (DOLBY)	BLADE 2
7 (DTS)	ICE AGE
8	BIBINGKA
9	BATAS NG LANSANGAN

Gotesco Commonwealth
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2	BLADE 2
3	GOT 2 BELIEVE
4	SNAKE CHARMER
5 (SDDS)	ICE AGE
6	HARI NG SELDA
7 (DOLBY)	BLADE 2
8	BANDITS

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

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3 (DTS)	TIME MACHINE
4	SNAKE CHARMER
5 (SDDS)	ICE AGE

Universal
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1	HARI NG SELDA

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

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1	HARI NG SELDA
2	BLADE 2
3	TIME MACHINE

Prima
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3	

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	BLADE 2
2	TIME MACHINE
3	RESERVE
4	HARI NG SELDA
5	ICE AGE

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DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite

1	HARI NG SELDA
2	RESERVE

Berma
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1	HARI NG SELDA
2	TIME MACHINE

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	
2	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	HARI NG SELDA
2	TIME MACHINE
3 (DTS)	ICE AGE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	HARI NG SELDA
2 (DTS)	ICE AGE
3 (DOLBY)	TIME MACHINE
4	JOHN Q

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	HARI NG SELDA
2 (DOLBY)	TIME MACHINE
3 (DTS)	ICE AGE
4	JOHN Q

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	HARI NG SELDA
2	SHALLOW HAL
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	HARI NG SELDA
2	HARI NG SELDA
3 (DOLBY)	D-TOX
4 (DTS)	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	HARI NG SELDA
2	TIME MACHINE
3	MASARAP HABANG MAINIT
4 (DTS)	BLADE 2

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	TIME MACHINE
2	HARI NG SELDA
3 (DTS)	ICE AGE
4	MASARAP HABANG MAINIT
5	JOHN Q

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	HARI NG SELDA
2	ICE AGE
3	TIME MACHINE

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1	TIME MACHINE
2	HARI NG SELDA
3	ICE AGE

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	D-TOX
2	EVA
3	GOT 2 BELIEVE

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	HARI NG SELDA
2	ICE AGE
3	RESERVE

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	HARI NG SELDA
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Fourstep
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3	BIBINGKA

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2	WE WERE SOLDIERS
3	D-TOX
4	HARI NG SELDA

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2	HARI NG SELDA
3 (DTS)	ICE AGE
4	NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE

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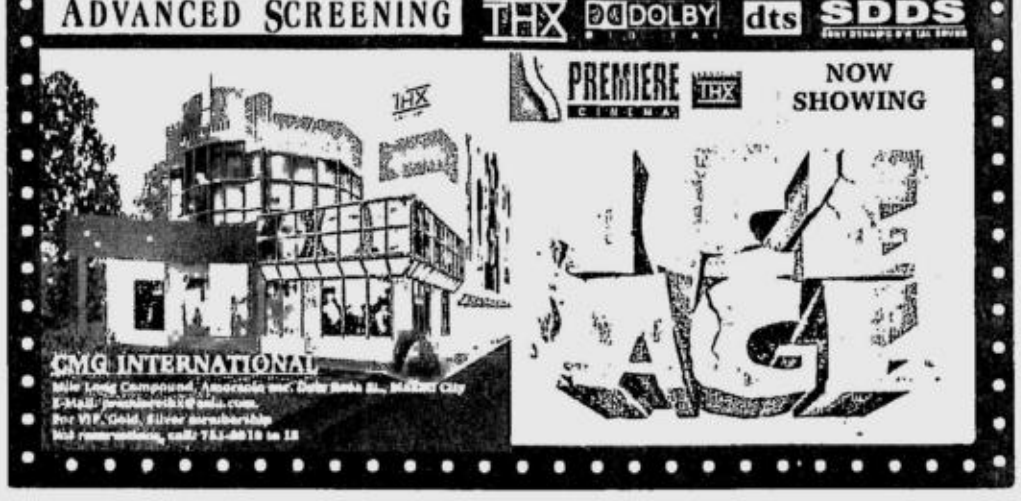

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2	BANDITS
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5	EVA
6	A BEATIFUL MIND

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	TIME MACHINE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	ICE AGE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	QUEEN OF THE DAMNE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	BANDITS
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	HARI NG SELDA
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	BLADE 2
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	HUBOG / TOO MUCH FLESH
ODEON	HARI NG SELDA
ODEON-2	TIME MACHINE
ROBEN	HARI NG SELDA
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	HARRY POTTER / PHOSSED

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	BIBINGKA
REMAR	HARI NG SELDA
REMAR-2	SNAKE CHARMER

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	BIBINGKA
B	EVA LASON KAY ADAN
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	TIME MACHINE
CINEMA-2	ICE AGE

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	HARI NG SELDA
CINEMA-2	JOHN Q
CINEMA-3	THE MAJESTIC
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BLADE 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	JIMMY NEUTRON
CINEMA-6	GOT 2 BELIEVE
CINEMA-7	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
CINEMA-8	BANDITS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TIME MACHINE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BLADE 2
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	ICE AGE
CINEMA-12	ICE AGE
CINEMA-14	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
CINEMA-15	HARI NG SELDA

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	JIMMY NEUTRON
CINEMA-2	TIME MACHINE
CINEMA-3	ICE AGE
CINEMA-4	ICE AGE
CINEMA-5	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
CINEMA-6	BLADE 2

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	
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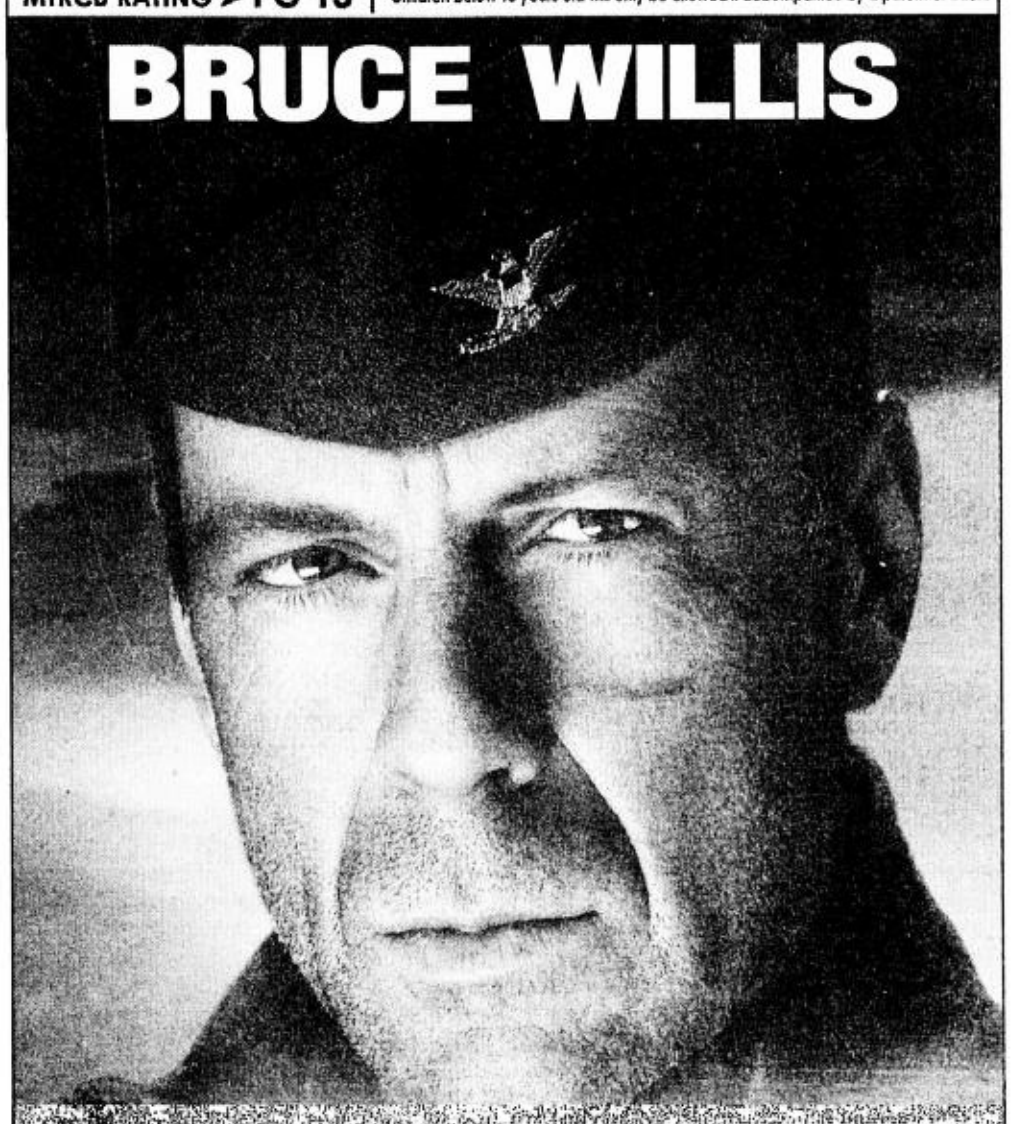
BRUCE WILLIS



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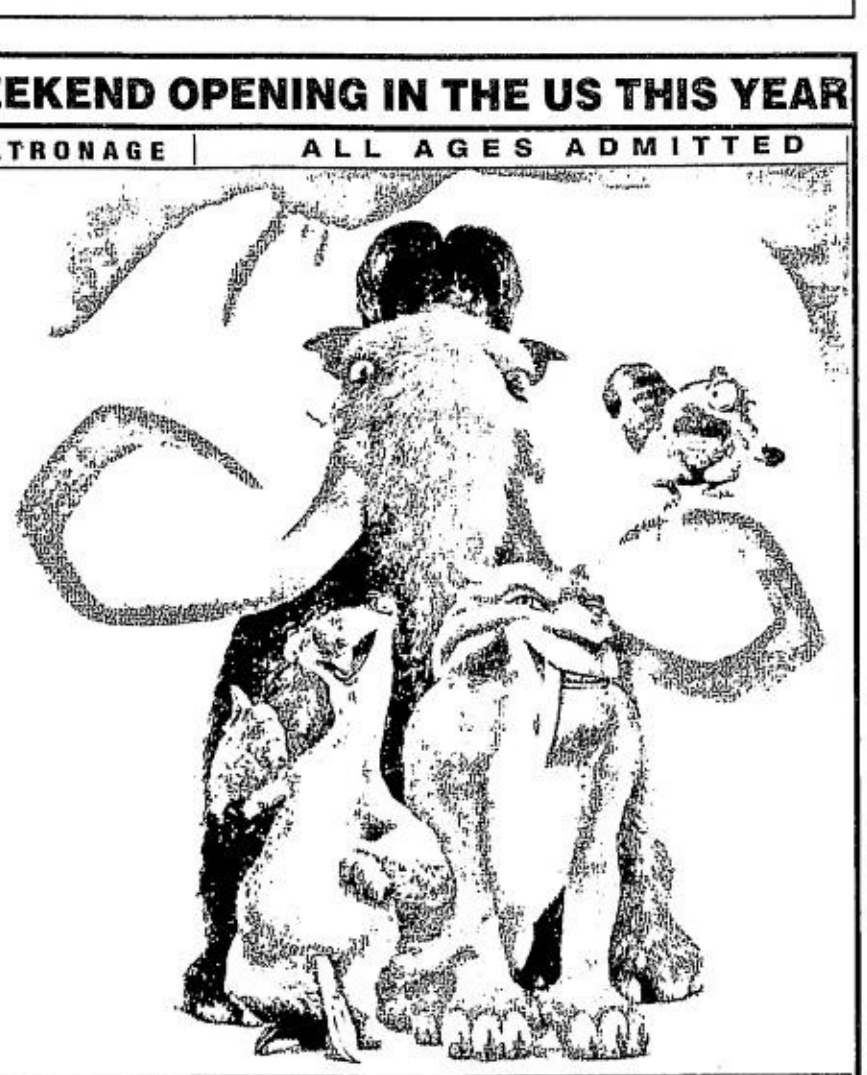

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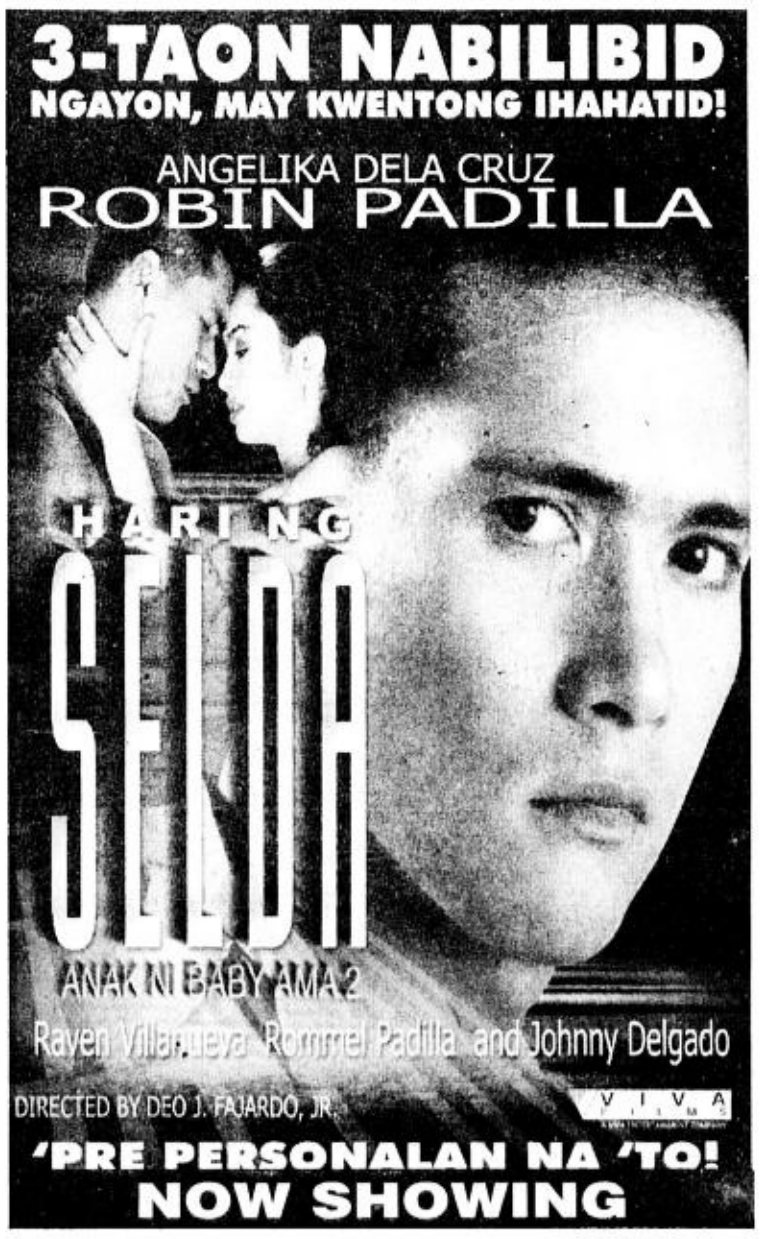


ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

'E.T.' forever

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

TWENTY years ago, **Steven Spielberg**'s "E.T." introduced earthling viewers to the scary and thrilling prospect of life in other worlds. Viewing the movie was a heart-and mind-expanding experience for many film buffs, who related with delight to Spielberg's imaginative tale about an extraterrestrial and a boy bonding so deeply that the fact that they belonged to different galaxies became irrelevant.

As the boy, Elliott, tried to help his friend from outer space contact his home planet so he could be rescued, viewers were with them all the way. They cheered as the two fugitives eluded scientists and government agents who were determined to capture the alien for research purposes.

When we saw the film two decades ago, we were particularly captivated by it because it was one of the few movies about extraterrestrials that didn't depict them as monstrous marauders who were bent on making life a living hell for earthlings.

We appreciated "E.T.'s" positive outlook because we believed that aliens from outer space, if they did indeed exist, weren't the intergalactic predators and conquerors that Hollywood depicted them to be.

Our logic: If they were brilliant and scientifically advanced enough to solve the many complex problems of space travel, their sensibilities must also be more advanced than ours. So, it stood to reason that they would have risen beyond petty motives and negative impulses, and could in fact show us humans the way to true intergalactic enlightenment.

That turned out to be the case in "E.T.," so we were glad that the movie turned out to be a big hit, so millions of people were exposed to its upbeat and outlook-transforming message. Years later, we saw the movie again on tape and it was like revisiting an old friend.

That's why, when we heard that "E.T." was going to be reissued on the big screen to mark its 20th anniversary this year, we were delighted.

But it turned out that Spielberg had an even better treat in store for the movie's fans, both old and new: He was bent on enhancing some of its key sequences with the advanced visual effects technology that's available to filmmakers now, *and* on "curing" some of the original film's defects, which were due to the production's relatively modest budget when it was first made.

We also looked forward to seeing the five-year-old **Drew Barrymore** in her very first major movie appearance. A lot has happened to her since then, but in the movie she remains as lovely, innocent and perky as she was 20 years ago—a unique feat of movie magic!

So, viewing "E.T." in 2002 should be a stirring experience not just for a new generation of young viewers who will be seeing the film for the first time, but also for second—or even third-time-"arounders"—but for radically different reasons.

Finally, what has the world become, 20 years after Spielberg's movie was first shown? Have the two decades that passed made humanity a better, more enlightened race, as E.T. and Elliott hoped? Alas, no. In fact, we may even have retrogressed as far as the things that truly matter are concerned.

All the more reason, then, for the film's upbeat message to be heard again by today's audience. This time around, we hope that we will really listen.

The new Amy Austria

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

I FIRST met **Amy Austria** when I tagged along with my mom to a show biz party for the cast and crew of **Edu Manzano**'s movie "Alaga" in the house of designer **Christian Espiritu** many film launches ago.

You can't help but notice her enchanting "cat eyes." No wonder her closest friends call her "*pusa*"). But behind those captivating eyes there was always a trace of sadness.

Amy's claim to fame was being a Tondo girl who managed to rise above the hard knocks of life. She's always known to be street-smart, outspoken and free-spirited.

Every so often, I would bump into her in the parlor huddled with her bosom buddies **Lorna Tolentino, Beth Bautista** and **Deborah Sun** (if my memory serves me right). We were mere acquaintances back then and our conversations never went beyond the typical show biz *beso-beso* or *chika-chika*.

Even without getting to know her during those early years, I've always admired women like her who are self-made and have no qualms about admitting their humble beginnings. I guess true-to-life hardship makes one a better actor compared to the ones who just hone their skills in acting workshops.

There's nothing quite like tasting the tests of life first-hand. No matter if Amy is just playing a cameo role, she never fails to make a mark. Just like when she portrayed **Cesar Montano**'s unchaste lover in "Muro-Ami." She really lapped it up over and beyond the call of duty and the call of the wild!

About 10 years ago when news broke out that her long-time live-in partner **Jay Ilagan** died in a motorcycle accident, I remember my mom admonishing my brother and I not to go out late at night just for the heck of it. Jay died because he was rushing to return some video tapes before the shop closes. If he just stayed home and waited the next day, he would probably still be alive today.

But then again, God's plans are not ours to know right away. We just have to live through trials and leave it all up to Him.

I wondered how Amy was coping when that tragedy struck. But it was only two weekends ago when I really got a chance to know Amy's heart. As I wrote in my previous column, I went on a pre-Holy Week retreat with Amy and other show biz colleagues. I never thought that Amy would open up to me as if she knew me for ages. We both agree that we were handpicked by the Lord to bond during the retreat because God knows that love has misled Amy and I many times over.

Amy and I found ourselves in the dining table while our other retreat buddies were doing their bedtime rituals. It was the night when the Film Academy Awards was aired and Amy was one of the nominees for best actress. However, instead of attending the ceremonies, she opted to hie off to Makiling Heights with all of us for a long overdue retreat.

Our conversation drifted to love matters. When Amy began her testimony I was all-ears and all-heart. She rambled on "Jay and I lived in for nine years. When he died, my world crumbled. I jumped from one relationship to another just to get through the lonely nights. I would disco till dawn and songs like 'I Will Survive' and 'The Love I Lost' were my anthems.

"It reached a point where I didn't know what love was anymore. I said to myself who would take me seriously? I didn't believe in marriage because Jay and I lived together for so long and yet we never had marriage plans.

I really got her drift because I'm also tired of having a full schedule but an empty life.

Amy continued, "Until I met **Duke Ventura** (who is half-Filipino, half-Korean). Before meeting him, though, I went through a period of cleansing. I was seeking out the Lord's will in my life so when I realized that all the promiscuity is not pleasing to Him I had to give up my boyfriend (whom I was with for over a year) even if I really loved him. I was sick of the cycle already.

"At first I felt awkward with Duke. *Inglesero kasi. Parang nakakailang kausap.* He's really the friend of Lorna and Rudy. We were hanging out as a group till one time Lorna and the rest got busy, so Duke and I were the only ones around during our regular get-togethers."

Just like Amy, Duke was already a Born-Again Christian when destiny threw them together. What seemed to be a whirlwind romance is actually a will of God that's never gone with the wind.

For quite some time, Amy tried to avoid falling for Duke but since God already gave all the signs she prayed for, she knew in her heart that Duke is indeed God's choice for her lifetime partner.

When Duke came to attend Amy's "baptism," I could sense the stabilizing effect he has on her. Bubbling like a child full of excitement, Amy said, "Duke gets a thrill about doing things for me that no guy has done before. Like today, I was surprised he bought me a van. First time a guy gave me a car. It's not the material side I appreciate. It's the sweetness behind it. He loves surprising me!"

Gone is the *taray* or *palengkera* Amy Austria. The distinctive cat eyes are still there and if Amy were a cat who had nine lives, I know for sure that she would want to spend all of those lifetimes with Duke by her side and God right in the heart of their love.

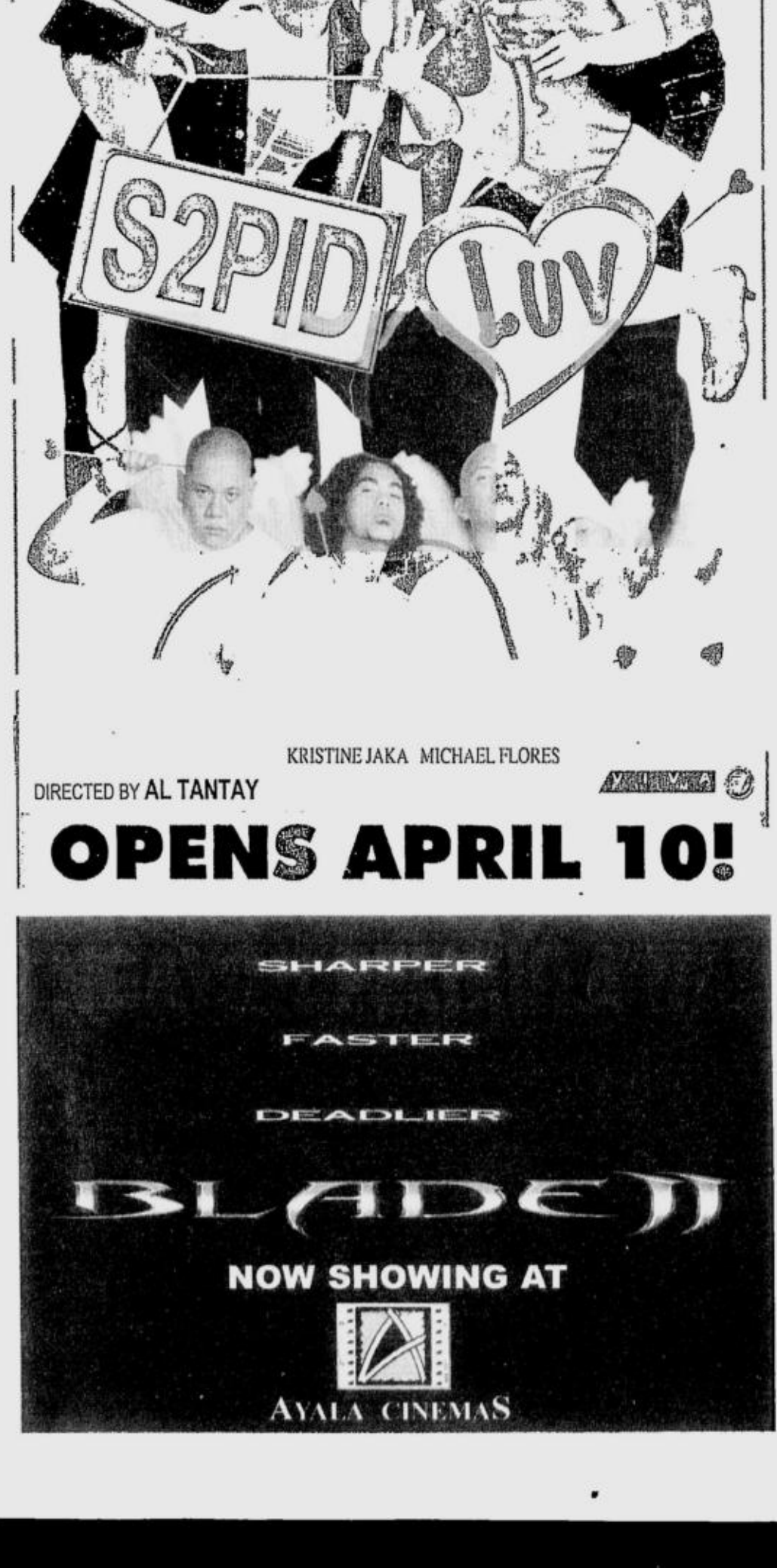
Personal

MY NEVER-ending thanks to **Vic Victoria** and my "sis" **Cathy Tulfo** for redefining what friendship means to me. Congrats on your engagement! You're so well-matched in loving each other much too much.

Special greetings to Mayor and Ms. **Benhur Abalos**. You give me good reason to keep staying in Mandaluyong (as an outpatient of Mental Hospital, ha, ha, ha!)

Happy, happy birthday to the only man in my life whom I know for sure will love me no matter what ... my brother **Ricky**!

For feedback, e-mail: luvludg@hotmail.com, friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com; wateringhole2000@yahoo.com



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ICE AGE - GP 12:50, 2:40, 4:30, 6:20, 8:10, 10:00	A BEAUTIFUL MIND - P 13 1:10, 3:55, 6:40, 9:30	BLADE 2 - P 13 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50

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MTRCB RATING R Restricted — Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

Wild, sexy new comedy!

'Evil Woman' opens Tomorrow !

In the tradition of their hit laugh-a-minute movies, Jason Biggs of AMERICAN PIE, Jack Black of SHALLOW HAL and Steve Zahn of DR. DOLITTLE 2 join comic forces in the hot and sexy new comedy from Columbia Pictures, EVIL WOMAN.

Darren (Biggs), Wayne (Zahn) and J.D. (Black) have been best of friends since 5th grade. They swore nothing could come between them...un til she came along.

Judith (Amanda Peet) sizzles with sex appeal but is really a cold-hearted and manipulative bitch. She digs her claws into Darren and snatches him from the friendship!

Darren must be rescued at all cost from the clutches of the evil woman, launching a series of side-splitting misadventures. **(Rated R for nudity and sexual humor.)**

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91-day T-bill rate hits new low of 5.174%

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Clarissa S. Batino

THE BENCHMARK treasury bill rate sank to new historical low as banks continue to pump in their excess cash to fixed income securities while shunning loans to cash-starved corporations.

The 91-day treasury bill rate, used by banks to price commercial loans, fell 31.4 basis points to a new record low of 5.174 percent yesterday from 5.488 percent from last year. The 182-day treasury bill yield slipped to 5.824 percent from 6.217 percent and the 364-day rate nose-dived to 6.597 percent from 8.329 percent. Total tenders reached P25.352 billion or nearly 3 times the P9 billion up for bidding.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said he expected treasury bill rates to further plumb lower depths to possibly 5 percent or lower in the next 2 weeks due to excess liquidity and benign inflation.

"Given the way it has fallen today, it looks like there is still some more room for the rate to fall," Edeza told reporters after the auction.

"Maybe a few basis points, not as huge as today, maybe I will say 5-10 basis points," he added.

"I think during the month of April, we should see it consolidate to levels of around this range, maybe 5-5.5 percent for the 91-day," Edeza said.

Traders had said before the auction that high liquidity in the system would pull down the rates. Bids for the P3.5 billion worth of bills on sale totaled P10.917 billion, officials said.

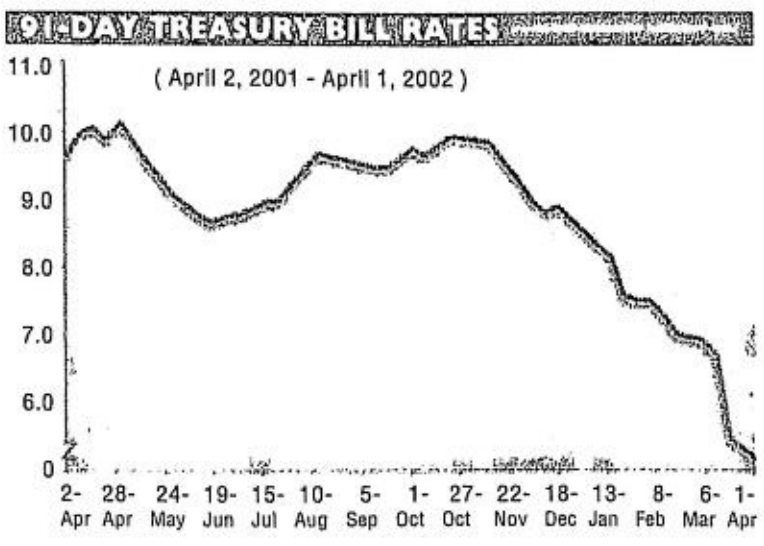
Meantime, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas is preparing to reverse its balance-of-payments target this year from a slight deficit to a surplus of more than $200 million on account of much improved economic prospects.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the central bank was expecting the BOP to show a small deficit of about $200 million this year based on assumptions made in late 2001.

"We may have to revise the BOP forecast to a surplus of more than $200 million as conditions appear to improve this year compared to late December when we made the target," he noted.

In 2001, the deficit in the external payments reached only $192 million against a worst-case scenario of $2.3 billion and a revised estimate of $1.1 billion.

91-DAY/ B4



INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

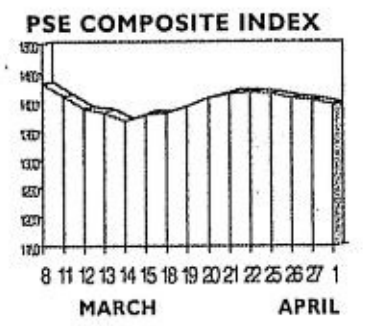
₱51.00 = $1
As of 5 p.m., April 1, 2002

¥133.18 = $1
As of 5 p.m., April 1, 2002

GOLD: $297/297.50
per ounce Hong Kong, March 27, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Stocks end down



STOCKS, which have strengthened by more than 20 percent in the first quarter of the year, fell a notch yesterday as investors continued to shake off some of the gains, analysts said.

The main index dropped for the third straight session, dipping 7.52 points or 0.54 percent to 1,396.10 points on volume of P308.35 million.

(See stock market report on Page B4)

Twenty-seven stocks ended down, 22 rose and 46 were unchanged.

Select blue-chips led by the country's largest conglomerate Ayala Corp. and property firm Ayala Land, led the decline.

"This is due to a dearth of fresh news and investors just coming back from the Easter break," said BPI Securities stock analyst Roberto Cano.

Henry Ong, KGI Securities vice president for sales, said the drop was technical.

"There was not much volume, so the drop was just technical in nature . . . to shake off excess gains. We are now approaching the next support level of 1,360. We see resistance at 1,420," Ong said.

In the first quarter of the year, the main index increased by slightly over 20 percent, the fifth best performing Asian stock market after Karachi (45 percent), Seoul (29.1 percent), Bangkok (23.1 percent), and Jakarta (22.9 percent).

Reuters

Malacañang, gov't counsel back SBMA on used car imports

THE GOVERNMENT'S legal experts and Malacañang are backing the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority's (SBMA) position that the importation and conversion of used, right-hand-drive vehicles are legal because of Subic's freeport status.

SBMA Chair Felicito C. Payumo said the Department of Justice, the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC), and the Office of the President had issued separate opinions disputing Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II's claim that the importations of used vehicles in Subic were prohibited under the law.

Payumo said that while Roxas might be correct in citing RA 8506, which bans the importation of right-hand-drive vehicles, this was not applicable to Subic which was granted freeport status under RA 7227. He said RA 7227 was more specific to Subic and RA 8506 did not repeal RA 7227 even though the latter was legislated much earlier.

In its opinion, the DOJ stated that the act of bringing into the Philippines of such goods (used, right-hand vehicles) would not constitute importation within the meaning of RA 8506.

In its reply to an SBMA query on whether the importation and discharge of right-hand-drive vehicles within the freeport zone for purposes of transshipment and conversion, registration and use outside Subic would violate RA 8506, the OGCC said it did not.

The Office of the President concurred with the DOJ and OGCC opinions as it found no violation of the importation, conversion, discharge and use of right-hand-drive vehicles outside the freeport zone.

"Between the DTI, OGCC, DOJ and Office of the President, the SBMA will take the last three in terms of rendering legal opinion," Payumo said. "Unless the SBMA is directed by competent government authorities to stop allowing importation of right-hand-drive vehicles, we have no reason not to assert the freeport status of Subic."

The word war between Roxas and Payumo was triggered by the DTI's plan to stop the importation of used vehicles in Subic following incessant appeals by Japanese and American assemblers that were losing market share to the cheap, second-hand converts. Roxas had earlier shot down Payumo's proposal for a trade-off on the issue as he maintained the DTI's all-or-nothing position on the issue.

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Tibayan Group Specializes on Mutual Fund Investments

By Rowena M. Santos

The records states that the first Mutual Fund originated in Boston, in 1924. The industry grew in a gradual move but then, during the 1970's however, there were 360 Funds with about 50 Billion U.S. Dollars in assets. Furthermore, at the end of 1991, more than 3,400 various funds which has accumulated to 1.2 Trillion U.S. Dollars in terms of asset size. Since then, the records concludes that MUTUAL FUNDS are the Third Most Important Financial Industry Group in the United States.

In the Philippine Market, MUTUAL FUND INVESTMENTS are becoming enormously demanding. Nevertheless it is necessary, not only to choose where to invest one's life savings, but also to whom these savings can be entrusted to in achieving Financial Security.

One of the Pioneering Institutions in Mutual Funds projects is the TIBAYAN GROUP INVESTMENT CO., INC. or TG INVESTMENT HOUSE, a subsidiary of the UGC-TIBAYAN GROUP CONGLOMERATE, one of the most stable and respectable group in the industry that specializes in Banking, Investment Services, Assets Management and Holdings.

It is synonymous with the 'Tagalog' word, "Batikan" (expert), "TIBAYAN" connotes a "Group of Strong People." When S.E.C. Commissioner Edijer Martinez spoke about the UGC-TG, based on his personal assessment, he stressed on "strength."

"The TIBAYAN GROUP is really strong!" he said. That's very true. The mere fact that in every structure, strength plays a vital role particularly in building a financial conglomerate.

In a Mutual Fund, individuals and/or corporations willing to allocate money in investment can pool together their excess cash. This pool of investments, which is being managed by Professional Financial Advisers, is then used to buy a large portfolio of securities, usually in the form of stocks, bonds, capital market and other securities.

Mutual Fund Investments have the diversified Advantages. One of which is that it provides the "Small-scale Investors' the chance to participate directly in the capital market. Investing in a mutual fund has a low-cost entry. Investors actually buy a bit of each security held in the fund's portfolio, and they eventually have share in the interest or dividend earnings. Another advantage is that, these investors can enjoy the benefits of having a Professional Asset Managers to oversee the pooled resources, which are reinvested in portfolio of stocks, bonds, capital market and other securities. Thus, investors can earn without having to make large investments.

Aside from being under the regulation of S.E.C. – which requires a minimum of P50 Million seed capital for establishing a fund – Mutual Funds also have other layers of protection that gives the investors a measure of security and commitment. Each Mutual Fund has its own Board of Directors, who takes care of the welfare of the Shareholders, as well as an Independent Custodian Bank which keeps all the assets.

With the above-mentioned Facts about Mutual Fund Investment, investors can absolutely rely-on with the TIBAYAN GROUP because this group has the 'strong ideas,' 'strong leadership' and 'strong machineries' that are the basic pillars of structural strength. At the UGC-TG, preservation of strength is a crucial step, wherein which this Group was able to establish and maintain through sheer hardwork and dedication.

The TIBAYAN GROUP appears to have a big chance of becoming a larger reality that can explore all possibilities in making itself "THE FUTURE OF INDUSTRIES."

ADVT.

Consommé protection

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

THERE, at the center for consumer protection (i.e. crude offices of cement importers), they are delighted that, suddenly, everybody shows deep concern for . . . well, "consumers."

By "everybody," I don't mean only the Tariff Commission. I mean even pseudo consumer groups speak of undying love and devotion for importers, *este*, consumers.

The honorable commission, it is true, just bought the line of cement importers and construction firms. It recently ruled in their favor on the current hot issue over cement.

The local cement industry, which, as you know, was on the brink, asked this cute administration for "safeguards" against the flood of cheap dumped imported cement.

The commission ruled that our cement makers needed no safeguards. It said the flood of imported cement actually served as consumer protection. Yeah? Since when?

I have a little problem with the line about consumer protection. It's not even that cement importers and construction firms peddled it to the government and media alike.

It's just that, if it's true the flood of imported cement is God's gift to consumers, how come imported cement costs much more than local cement in the stores—any store?

* * *

SUCH is the deep concern for consumers nowadays. Look here, you morons (i.e. consumers), cement importers protect you by stealing your money, you ingrates!

To protect you, idiots, the cement importers even banded together into the Philippine Cement Importers Inc., and they even spent money for press conferences.

In one such conferences, they defended the honorable Tariff Commission. In particular, they very much liked its decision to deny safeguards to the cement industry.

For if you look at it another way, you can see that the decision simply means the commission would rather give the "safeguards" to cement importers—and only to them.

As for consumers, our beloved Tariff Commission itself took note that we pay more for imported cement than for local cement. Consumer protection, my foot!

To think, imported cement is dumped here. One figure, as reported to the commission by a construction firm, was P58 per bag. It is then sold in stores at P140.

In other words, all that jazz about "consumer protection" is precisely just that—all that jazz! Who enjoys the protection? Well, none other than guys like Nappy Boy!

* * *

OUR favorite Nappy Boy is none other than Napoleon Co, main man of the big cement-importing firm based in San Juan called Cohaco Trading.

He is the same Nappy whose other business happens to be the importation of steel and ceramic tiles. Of course you know what happened to the National Steel Corp.

Nappy also brought in dumped Russian steel that ultimately killed NSC. But give it to the Tariff Commission. It ruled in favor of NSC after the firm died.

Anyway, in his business of importing steel, cement and ceramic tiles, old Nappy Boy had the same huge work force of only 25 employees.

He was not ashamed to admit that they were all contractual workers who did not even receive employment benefits, except for the manager, who was only his son.

While his lucrative business brought in millions of bag of cement, he also helped the country by paying taxes amounting to P950,000.

Such an amount is heaven sent to this cute administration. It is much, much less than P3.1 million in taxes paid by the 97 workers in a cement plant in La Union.

* * *

OLD friends of cement importers, naturally, must back up the Tariff Commission. They include pseudo consumer groups with such funny names as Cup and Charge.

As soon as the Tariff Commission ruled to give safeguards to cement importers, those two organizations surfaced—again. They already fought for importers earlier.

When the cement industry sought help from the DTI, the two organizations attacked Trade Secretary Mar Roxas. Their line of attack, as usual, was consumer protection.

One of the figures behind Charge, whatever it means, is a certain Jess Chua, who has already renamed himself as Arranza, the self-declared champion of consumers.

Only recently, Chua or Arranza, depending on where you sit, took it upon himself to distribute press statements to news reporters at the Board of Investments.

The statements praised the Tariff Commission's decision. They said it was good for consumers, who were all morons, anyway, and so they would believe the statements.

To consumers, fortunately, the propaganda soup of importers was consommé. Very clear! They did not fool consumers. They just fooled everybody else. Teachers, for instance!

* * *

EVEN teachers from big schools seemed to have bought the propaganda soup about consumer protection. They even issued a warning that Mar Roxas was weak.

But if I know the guy, he must be trying to look at the big picture. It is not only the cement industry that's involved in this issue. It's about that Safeguard Measures Law.

For if Mar Roxas overturns the Tariff Commission, it means that other local industries have a chance to use the law to get safeguards from the government against dumping.

At the moment, only cement importers, plus of course big construction companies, are making all the big money in this surge of cement importation.

The executive director of the Philippine Contractors Association even claimed that safeguards against cement importation would be bad for construction workers. Sure!

How come their national organization, Balikatan ng mga Manggagawa sa Konstruksyon, says their problem has nothing to do with cement?

The group says their problem is the construction industry itself. Take the case of the construction firm FF Cruz.

The FF Cruz Heavy Equipment Division Union said that imported cement never benefited its members. At the height of the heavy importation of cement, the company imposed a moratorium on their CBA benefits.

It seems to me, reading between the lines, the union was saying that FF Cruz was a heavy importer of cement, and its union members never even got anything out of it!

SEC clears deal with BW suspects

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has approved the settlement of administrative cases against five out of 24 individuals and stockbrokerages involved in the BW Resources Corp. stock fraud scandal, and more settlements are expected.

Documents showed that the commission agreed over a week ago to drop administrative cases against AT de Castro Securities Corp., PNB Securities Corp. and Ramon Lee in exchange for payment of a compromise penalty amounting to P1 million, P100,000 and P112,500, respectively.

The SEC allowed AT de Castro to pay P500,000 up front and the balance in 10 equal monthly installments from May this year given the adverse condition of the stock market.

An official who requested anonymity said the commission approved around five settlement offers but declined to name the other two that, he said, were small and not involved in the criminal case filed with the justice department against 100 individuals and companies.

He said Wealth Securities Inc. of stockbroker Wilson Sy also sought a settlement, but it offered an amount too small that the commission decided to study the offer some more.

Last year, the SEC's compliance and enforcement department sought to impose administrative sanctions against 24 individuals and stockbrokerages it accused of manipulating BW's stock prices.

The justice department recently indicted BW majority owner Dante Tan and seven others for allegedly violating the country's securities laws.

DA chief backs biotech guidelines

AGRICULTURE Secretary Leonardo Montemayor has assured lawmakers on the passage of the commercialization guidelines on modern biotechnology.

Montemayor is set to present to the Cabinet today the draft guidelines on the use of modern biotechnology in the country to increase food production and achieve food security.

The guidelines contain the proposed rules and regulations that will govern the importation and use of plants and plant products derived from biotechnological processes.

The guidelines are based on the current efforts of the Macapagal administration to hasten the development of agriculture "from a resource-based to a technology-based sector," he said.

"As early as 1990, the government has recognized the potentials of biotechnology in improving the lives of people," he said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo approved the government's policy statement on modern biotechnology last year.

In it, she reiterated the government's drive to promote the safe and responsible use of biotechnology to achieve and sustain food sufficiency, as well as protect the environment.

The draft rules and regulations require all imported plant and plant products that have undergone biotechnological processes to undergo risk assessment.

The assessment will primarily be undertaken by the Bureau of Plant Industry, Bureau of Animal Industry, and the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Products Standards.

The draft also provides rules governing the local field-testing of biotechnologically processed plants. Field tests will be supervised by the Institutional Biosafety Committee composed of five members, at least three of which are scientists.

Biotechnological plants and plant products are now widely used in the United States, Canada, South America and some Asian countries. The use of the technology has resulted in the development of plant varieties that are resistant to prevalent insect infestation.

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AFTER REBUFF

DTI refers cement issue to Cabinet body

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

FOLLOWING its setback at the Tariff Commission, the Department of Trade and Industry is now pushing to raise duties on cement imports at the Cabinet-level Tariff and Related Matters also chaired by Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II.

In an interview, Roxas said the trade department had to go the TRM route because it could not reverse the Tariff Commission's rejection of the petition to impose punitive duties and import quotas on cement imports under the Safeguard Measures Law.

Roxas had incorrectly insisted that the DTI had the final say on the issue. He previously hinted that the agency itself would go ahead and impose the punitive duties that the Tariff Commission rejected or extend the provisional duty of P20.60 per bag that the agency imposed in December last year.

After a closer reading of the law, Roxas said the DTI's only option was to continue collecting the provisional duty up to its full 200-day period, which would end on June 28.

Cement importers, however, are likely to challenge this as they have demanded a refund of the P70 million duties they paid since December last year.

Roxas said the DTI would continue to push for a "managed solution"—high tariffs to repel dumped imports and a firm commitment by manufacturers to keep prices within P125 and P135 per bag—in lieu of a free market response to address the cement industry's problem.

He claimed that consumers hardly benefited from a free market, as cement prices had been soaring since January 2000.

Roxas said, "Even academics recognize that, in the case of the cement industry, deregulation and trade liberalization, while necessary, are not sufficient to ensure that markets perform efficiently and that their outcomes are reasonably equitable."

Apart from consumer groups, Roxas also got brickbats from academicians led by former Economic Planning Secretary Cielito Habito who, in a position paper, urged the trade department to be more circumspect in its decision and not to succumb to the continued lobbying of the foreign controlled cement industry which tries to hide under the cloak of national interest.

Academicians claim that the main issue boils down to the collusion of cement firms to fix prices.

Roxas retorted that some critics failed to consider "the reality of what was on the ground, and that their theory of free trade had not led to the benefit of anybody."

The trade secretary noted that prices of cement had fallen from P145 to P125 per bag in December since his department imposed the provisional duty.

Consumer groups have pointed out, however, that prices fell only because the DTI demanded this from the manufacturers.

Three months after the provisional duty was imposed, prices of cement have crept up to a peak of P145 per bag as the slowdown in imports led to a shortage of supply during the cyclical peak of the construction industry.

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FOREST HILLS A/B*/C**	200,000	230,000/300,000*/325,000**
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	250,000	270,000/300,000*
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Ayala unit seen replacing Maynilad

By Christine A. Gaylican

FOREIGN creditors of Maynilad Water Services Inc. want Manila Water Co. Inc. to take over in the event that Maynilad terminates its contract with the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System ahead of schedule, according to a senior MWSS official.

Manila Water and Maynilad are concessionaires of the MWSS. Manila Water provides water services to the eastern part of Metro Manila, while Maynilad handles the east.

MWSS Deputy Administrator Macra Cruz said Maynilad's creditors were seeking a provision that would allow Manila Water, a unit of the Ayala group of companies, to come in and take over Maynilad's service area should Maynilad decide on an early termination of its contract with the MWSS.

"In the event that Maynilad quits as concessionaire, the lenders have a say in recommending the replacement operator for the West zone. They specifically want MWCI," Cruz told the INQUIRER.

Among the creditors seeking such a condition are Citibank NA, BNP Paribas, Barclays Capital, Tokai Bank of Japan and Coface of France.

Maynilad is seeking some $350 million from these financiers.

Cruz said the MWSS was still reviewing the creditors' request, saying the concession agreement between the MWSS, on one hand, and Maynilad and Manila Water, on the other, called for two companies distributing water in Metro Manila in line with the government's anti-monopoly policy.

The MWSS earlier agreed to enter into a deal that would allow Maynilad to secure $350 million worth of loans. This meant that the MWSS and the government would pay these loans should Maynilad fail to do so.

As a condition, however, the MWSS is insisting that the phrase "that are deemed beneficial to the Philippine government" be inserted in the lenders agreement.

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Philcomsat power struggle persists as gov't moves in

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government's move to name its new representatives in Philippine Communication Satellite Corp. (Philcomsat) has put to fore anew the power struggle in the telecommunications firm which has resulted in two warring boards of directors both claiming legitimacy.

In a letter to PCGG Chair Haydee Yorac, Philcomsat special legal counsel Samuel Divina decried the move of the group of Manuel Nieto to convene a special board meeting on March 22 to ostensibly elect two PCGG nominees—Enrique Locsin Jr. and Julio Jalandoni. Locsin was elected as chair during the meeting while Nieto was voted president.

Divina claimed that the move was a "mockery of judicial rulings" since the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court have categorically declared the rump board election held by the Nieto group as illegal.

"Their intention is obviously to represent themselves as the alleged directors of Philcomsat and to further sow chaos and confusion in order to perpetuate themselves in power as they have managed to do so in Philcomsat Holdings Corp. (an 81-percent owned subsidiary of Philcomsat)," Divina said.

Divina, who is allied with the group of Philcomsat director Honorio Poblador, said that the current and legitimate board was working on the qualification and election of the three PCGG nominees--Locsin (in lieu of Carmelo P. Africa Jr.), Jalandoni (in lieu of Pacifico U. Marcelo III), and Andal (in lieu of Edgardo A. Villanueva). Villanueva belongs to the Nieto group along with Ronaldo Salonga, Lourdes Africa and Benito Araneta.

But a spokesperson for the Nieto group claimed that the issues raised by Divina were still pending with the courts. The spokesperson claimed that the group had control of Philcomsat before Poblador eased them out of office unlawfully.

3 vie for top DBP post

By Elena R. Torrijos

FOUR names are in the shortlist of possible candidates to replace retiring Development Bank of the Philippines president and chief executive Remedios Macalincag.

INQUIRER sources said these included JP Morgan Chase investment banking head for the Philippines Simon Paterno, former DBP chair Francisco del Rosario and DBP first senior vice president Armando Samia.

A fourth person was also on the list but he was reportedly "not available" for the position, a source said.

Paterno, who was many years country manager for JP Morgan before the bank was absorbed by Chase Manhattan, is seen to have the support of DBP chair Vitaliano Nañagas III. Both of them were based in New York in the 1980s.

Paterno, who is in his early 40s, was one of the Ten Outstanding Young Men awardees a few years ago and has 21 years of banking experience behind him, 18 of those with the US-based investment bank. Early in his career he worked with Philippine National Bank. Several of the government's international bond issues that he has worked on received major international awards for being innovative and well executed.

Similar to Paterno, Samia has been involved in investment banking as head of that area for DBP. He also used to be a senior executive at Banker's Trust where Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho used to work.

Asian Development Bank director for the Philippines Cayetano Paderanga is reportedly out of the running for his lack of banking experience. Paderanga, mostly an academician, has also been a member of the Monetary Board, the highest policy-making body of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Power firm lists shares today

By Doris C. Dumlao

CEBU-BASED power firm Salcon Power Corp. is expected to generate good interest from the market when it debuts on the Philippine Stock Exchange today.

Analysts said Salcon would be competing with a lot of blue chips and second liners whose prices have become attractive at current levels, but noted that the company had long-term investment potentials.

Salcon, which offered 313.9 million shares split into primary and secondary shares out of about 1.57 billion in total shares at a price of P1.80 each, was the first company to conduct an initial public offering this year but the second to list after Citystate Savings Bank debuted in January.

The sale of Salcon's primary and secondary shares will raise about P565 million, the biggest offering in the local market which has seen an IPO drought over the last two years.

"It's a good company. It's palatable to long-term investors," A&A Securities head of research Astro del Castillo said. "However, IPOs will be more attractive to the market once daily value turnout has returned to the P1.5-P2 billion levels."

Eagle Equities president Joseph Roxas said Salcon's share price offering had a lot of upside potential because it was pegged near the lower end of the P1.70 to P2.20 original price range.

Roxas also said Salcon's price earnings multiple of over four times was attractive.

Globe raises IOU offering to $200M

By Abigail L. Ho

GLOBE Telecom Inc. has increased its senior notes offering to $200 million from the originally proposed $175 million after being "extremely well received by investors."

"We are delighted with the success of this transaction. The offering enables Globe to lock in long-term financing in an attractive interest rate environment," Globe president and chief executive Gerardo Ablaza Jr. said in a joint statement with lead manager Salomon Smith Barney yesterday.

The notes, due in 2012 and non-callable for the first five years, were priced at par with a spread of 4.42 percentage points over the 10-year US Treasuries to yield 9.75 percent.

Philippine notes were priced at 9.375 percent, almost 40 basis points below those of Globe. These are due in 2017.

Globe's $200-million notes offering is only one of two tranches. The telecom firm is expected to tap the international debt capital market again for the next tranche.

Globe last week raised the ceiling of its planned notes offering from $300 million to $325 million following positive ratings from international credit-rating agencies Moody's Investors Service and Standard and Poor's.

The first tranche received a BB rating with a stable outlook from S&P and a Ba3 rating with a positive outlook from Moody's.

An application has already been made to list the notes on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange.

Proceeds of the bond offering would be used to finance Globe's capital expenditure requirements, placed at $258 million, this year.

Additional funding would come from carryover funds, amounting to between $350 million and $400 million, from last year's $751-million capital expenditures budget.

Its end-2001 capex reached $577 million, 78 percent of which was spent on its wireless business. For this year, 60 percent of its capex will likewise go for the expansion and improvement of its wireless network.

Banco de Oro expects net profit to double to ₱979M

By Doris C. Dumlao

BANCO de Oro Universal Bank, the banking arm of retail tycoon Henry Sy, expects to double its net income this year to P979 million from a year ago on gains from its merger with Dao Heng Bank and the fresh funds from its initial public offering.

In a prospectus prepared for its IPO this May, BDO said its earnings were projected to improve "given an expected reduction in the bank's funding costs from additional capital as well as the realization of the synergy from the merger."

The prospectus also said net interest income would likely grow by 28 percent "mainly due to an anticipated improvement in net interest margins to be brought by the recapitalization."

Other income is also seen to grow by 31 percent while other expenses are expected to rise by 15 percent.

The bank also hopes to contain its non-performing loan ratio at its 2001 level of 11.3 percent while NPL coverage is targeted to hit 39.9 percent.

Last week, BDO filed with the Philippine Stock Exchange and the Securities Exchange Commission an application to offer 10 percent of its total shares through an IPO.

The IPO will be a combination of primary and secondary shares offering equivalent to 32.69 million and 56.35 million shares respectively, out of a total of 890.38 million outstanding common shares after the offering.

The shares will be offered at a price of P17.80 to P23.80 per share, allowing the bank to raise gross proceeds of between P1.58 billion and P2.1 billion from the combined primary and secondary shares offering.

The prospectus said that the net proceeds from the primary offering, amounting to P443 million to P591 million, would be used "initially to increase trading accounts securities and subsequently to support the bank lending and expansion activities."

Early this year, BDO also increased its capital through a P960-million cash infusion from Cambridge Pacific Fund Ltd. Together with the proceeds from its primary offer, the bank aims to achieve a 34-percent growth in deposits this year to P76.12 billion.

The bank also plans to open an average of 10 new branches a year and has recently augmented its fund generation efforts with the creation of a more focused treasury group.

Its loan portfolio is also targeted to rise by 47 percent to P48.87 billion this year from additional lending as well as purchase of loans with acceptable creditworthiness. To achieve this, the bank recently beefed up its account management group.

BDO started operating as a universal bank in 1996 after obtaining its upgraded license from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. Banking laws require universal banks to sell at least 10 percent of their shares through an IPO within three years after obtaining such licenses as expanded commercial banks.

DISCLOSURES

MANILA Broadcasting Co. disclosed the voluntary retrenchment availed by its assistant vice president and corporate secretary Rodinil Bugay and its director George Goduco. Hadrian Arroyo replaced Bugay.

* * *

TANDUAY Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 9, 4 p.m. at the Kachina Room of Century Park Sheraton. Only stockholders as of March 25 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

WILLIAM, Gothong & Aboitiz Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 26, 10 a.m. at the Cebu Plaza Hotel. Only stockholders as of March 26 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

ALSONS Cement Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 18, 9 a.m. at the Mahogany Room of Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati City. Only stockholders as of March 5 are entitled to vote at the meeting.

* * *

CENTRO Escolar University bought 5,000 of its own shares at P8 per share.

* * *

THE CHANGE in **Pure Foods Corp.'s** name to **San Miguel Pure Foods Co. Inc.** would not be reflected yet in the Philippine Stock Exchange's computer system pending disclosure on the procedure for updating of stock certificates to reflect the new name. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Monday, April 01, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	67	67.5	66.5	67	366,700
China Banking Corp.	610	615	610	610	13,600
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	36	36.5	35.5	35.5	480,500
First E-Bank Corp.	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	8,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	44	44	43.5	43.5	16,800
Philippine National Bank	68	68	68	68	2,500
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13	13	12.75	12.75	8,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.34	1.42	1.34	1.42	112,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1305	1305	1305	1305	1,700
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	30,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1065	1080	1065	1080	20,220
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	33.5	34	33.5	34	73,300
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.69	0.69	0.68	0.69	160,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	795	795	795	795	110
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.0575	0.06	0.0575	0.06	4,300,000
Piltel	0.45	0.45	0.44	0.44	210,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	200,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	525	535	525	530	16,720
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.021	0.021	0.02	0.021	24,800,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	30	30	29.5	30	13,000
Manila Electric Co. B	44.5	45	44.5	45	130,600
Petron Corp.	1.78	1.78	1.74	1.76	4,012,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	75,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.5	2.5	2.46	2.48	1,175,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	10,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.85	0.85	90,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	420,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	100,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13	13	13	13	63,700
RFM Corp.	1.54	1.6	1.52	1.6	462,000
San Miguel Corp. A	47	47.5	47	47	27,900
San Miguel Corp. B	62	62	61.5	62	411,700
Universal Robina Corp.	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85	10,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	6.5	6.5	6.2	6.3	17,420,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	1,100,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	100,000
APC Group Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	470,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	3	3.1	3	3.1	50,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.79	0.79	0.77	0.78	2,130,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	50,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	200,000
F&J Prince Holdings Corp.	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	10,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	44,100
Medco Holdings	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	1,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	380,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.6	0.65	0.6	0.65	440,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1,380,000
Music Corp.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	730,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	200,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	50,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	200,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	500,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	40,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	200,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	200,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	40,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	100,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	30,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.54	0.6	0.54	0.57	33,280,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	60,000
Manila Jockey Club	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	11,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	34	34.5	34	34.5	61,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref.	770	775	770	775	490
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0004	0.0004	0.0004	0.0004	10,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.5	10.25	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,400
Philweb.Com,Inc -Warrants	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	1,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.8	3,979,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	280,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.49	0.49	0.47	0.47	2,650,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	510,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.32	2.32	2.28	2.28	860,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	100,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	32,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.6	685,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	2,600,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	.0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	30,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.042	0.044	0.042	0.043	20,300,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	450,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	2,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0044	0.0046	0.0044	0.0046	25,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	220,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	2,930,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	500,000
Interport Res. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	5,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	50,000
Pacifica	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	400,000

SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc 1,063,020	..... 76,537,720.00
Comm'l & Ind'l 108,243,820	..... 194,046,195.00
PRO 11,696,000	..... 35,538,540.00
Mining 50,930,000	..... 1,962,600.00
OIL 5,950,000	..... 44,100.00
GRAND TOTALS: 177,882,840	..... 308,129,155.00

AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc 576.25	..... DOWN 3.46
Comm'l & Ind'l 1,895.99	..... DOWN 9.60
PRO 611.56	..... DOWN 1.41
Mining 1,347.18	..... UP 21.13
OIL 1.52	..... DOWN 0.04
All Shares Index 748.07	..... UP 1.49
Composite 1,396.10	..... DOWN 7.52

NO. OF ADVANCES: 22; NO. OF DECLINES: 27; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 46; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 95; NO. OF TRADES: 1,413

CURRENCIES

April 1, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.147052	1.000000	51.0960
Japan	Yen	0.008642	0.007534	0.3850
United Kingdom	Pound	1.635926	1.426200	72.8731
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.147066	0.128212	6.5511
Switzerland	Franc	0.681998	0.594566	30.3799
Canada	Dollar	0.719155	0.626959	32.0351
Singapore	Dollar	0.622891	0.543036	27.7470
Australia	Dollar	0.611761	0.533333	27.2512
Bahrain	Dinar	3.042740	2.652661	135.5404
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.305881	0.266667	13.6256
Brunei	Dollar	0.618524	0.539229	27.5524
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000117	0.000102	0.0052
Thailand	Baht	0.026370	0.022989	1.1746
UAE	Dirham	0.312310	0.272272	13.9120
Korea	Won	0.000871	0.000759	0.0388
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.871800	44.5455
Brazil	Real	0.493568	0.430293	21.9863
Denmark	Kroner	0.134543	0.117295	5.9933
India	Rupee	0.023539	0.020521	1.0485
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.301888	0.263186	13.4478
Mexico	New Peso	0.127450	0.111111	5.6773
New Zealand	Dollar	0.505287	0.440509	22.5082
Norway	Kroner	0.129751	0.113117	5.7798
Pakistan	Rupee	0.019149	0.016694	0.8530
South Africa	Rand	0.101263	0.088281	4.5108
Sweden	Kroner	0.110717	0.096523	4.9319
Syria	Pound	0.022272	0.019417	0.9921
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.032857	0.028645	1.4636
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001247	0.001087	0.0555

91-day T-bill rate . . .

From page B1

Buenaventura said the assumption used in the BOP deficit forecast was a flat growth in exports this year on expectations that the US economy would only start to rebound by the second half of 2002.

But the US economy has started to show signs of a recovery during the first quarter. This prompted the National Economic and Development Authority to consider adjusting the country's export earnings growth target from zero to a range of 1 to 1.5 percent.

Last year, export earnings contracted by more than 15 percent, a major factor for the huge BOP deficit forecast.

Foreign loans exceeding $1.4 billion in the last two months of the year had propped up the country's BOP.

As a result of the huge borrowings, the external payments position registered a huge surplus of $873 million in December and this pushed the full-year deficit down to only $192 million or 62.6 percent lower from a negative $513 million a year ago.

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CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club "A"	1,700,000	-
Alta Vista	-	260,000
Baguio Country Club	740,000	650,000
Camp John Hay	300,000	280,000
Capitol Hills Golf & CC	140,000	115,000
Calatagan Golf	90,000	-
Canyon Woods	200,000	190,000
Canlubang	-	-
Celebrity Sports	230,000	170,000
City Sports Club	-	Pls. Call
Eagleridge "A"	350,000	-
Eastridge	200,000	-
Evercrest	100,000	90,000
Fairways & Blue Waters	500,000	-
Fontana D/C	90,000/140,000	Pls. Call
Forest Hills "A"	230,000	210,000
Forest Hills "C"	250,000	240,000
Luisita Golf		320,000
Manila Polo		2,600,000
Makati Sports Club	300,000	250,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	650,000	630,000
Mimosa Golf Ind./C3*	190,000/300,000*	120,000/275,000*
Mt. Malarayat	350,000	-
Orchard	230,000	210,000
Phil. Columbian	60,000	60,000
Punta Fuego	600,000	550,000
Puerto Azul	170,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club	240,000	200,000
Riviera Golf "A"/"C"	200,000/450,000*	-
Riviera Golf "B"	250,000	-
Rockwell	400,000	370,000
Royale Tagaytay A/C	90,000/140,000	Pls. Call
Sherwoods	-	100,000
Subic Bay Yacht Club Corp*	400,000	Pls. Call
Subic Golf	180,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	-	380,000
Tagaytay Highlands Golf & CC	-	850,000
Tagaytay Midlands	-	750,000
Valley Golf & CC	-	230,000
Valle Verde (Indv.)	175,000	100,000

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GOLFERS
CLUB SHARES, INC.
SEC LICENSE # A 1998-2129
AS OF APRIL 1, 2002

	SELLING	BUYING
1. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	1,750,000	1,700,000
2. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	1,850,000	
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19. MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.)	11,000,000	
20. MANILA POLO CLUB	2,600,000	2,650,000
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US rolling ahead, spending still key

WASHINGTON—The US economy seems to be rolling ahead after a year-long slump, but economists say growth could decelerate in the second quarter if businesses keep their wallets snapped shut and consumers don't open theirs as freely.

During the shallow recession, consumers were the key underpinning for the economy, making a more-than-healthy number of purchases of expensive items like homes and cars.

But economists say that with the benefits of tax cuts, lower energy prices, tax rebates and lowered interest rates mostly in the past, a rise in consumer spending will hinge primarily upon wage and salary growth.

Despite the cautious words, which echo comments by most Federal Reserve officials, including Fed chair Alan Greenspan, few economists see a double-dip recession as a credible threat right now.

Business spending remains a question mark for both the central bank and private economists.

Thus far, corporate profits have been relatively soft, breeding caution in executives and making businesses unlikely to increase wages or make other investments in the work force.

"We've gone through a period where almost everything that could have, did turn positive for the economy," said Mark Vitner, an economist for Wachovia Securities in Charlotte, North Carolina.

"I think the economy is going to hit an air pocket in the spring," he added, just as the Fed contemplates when it should start raising interest rates.

US personal income rose 0.6 percent in February after a 0.5-percent increase the month before, the Commerce Department said on Friday. However, wages and salaries, a more clear-cut indication of how much bacon Americans were bringing home, rose 0.4 percent after remaining unchanged in January.

So far this year, the Fed has held interest rates steady at four-decade lows. It signaled earlier this month that it no longer viewed weakness as the main economic threat, which most economists saw as a sign higher rates were down the pike.

Last year, the central bank lowered short-term interest rates 11 times to help prop up the economy, which was slowing even before getting hit by the Sept. 11 attacks.

Now, many economists believe the Fed is poised to begin raising rates as early as June to keep the economy from overheating and stimulating price pressures.

A slew of data released over the past few weeks has shown that the US economy has indeed steamed ahead after the contraction during the third quarter of last year. But most of the gains reflect last year's huge inventory liquidation, which forced businesses to restock shelves.

Last week, the Commerce Department reported that economic growth in the fourth quarter of 2001 was stronger than previously thought, with gross domestic product rising at a 1.7-percent annual pace instead of the 1.4-percent rate in the prior estimate, while after-tax corporate profits slid. *Reuters*

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Legal Counsel to the Issue

April 2, 2002

Slow IPO pace seen in Q2

NEW YORK—For initial public offerings, the hatches are far from being unbattened, even as the climate for new issues may be improving.

The first quarter pace—slow, steady and unhelpful for most would-be issuers—may well persist into the second quarter. Up in the air is when an economic revival will unleash a stock rally that could, in turn, produce abundant initial public offerings.

Two IPO markets exist: lesser-known and younger businesses for whom the IPO bar is held high and spin-offs from world-class, established companies that can reap billion-dollar proceeds.

"Buyers are still price sensitive and value conscious," said Joe Hammer, managing director of capital markets/syndicate at Adams, Harkness & Hill in Boston.

"When you have general market weakness, that's obviously going to affect the IPO market because these are small-cap stocks in general, and they carry more risk," he said.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index, a broad gauge of stocks, was almost unchanged in the first quarter, while the technology-laden Nasdaq composite index fell 5.4 percent.

Few IPOs have come to market, yet volume has been comparatively high. There were 16 IPOs in the first quarter, just one more than in last year's third quarter, which had the fewest since the fourth quarter of 1990, research firm Dealogic said.

IPO volume reached $10.24 billion, more than the $9.32 billion raised in 21 IPOs in the first quarter of 2001 and not much less than the $11.42 billion raised by 74 IPOs in the first quarter of 1999.

The popularity of the New York Stock Exchange for IPO listings illustrates current IPO sobriety. The NYSE has stricter listing standards and is home to more established companies than the Nasdaq stock market.

Ten of the 16 IPOs in the first quarter were listed on the NYSE, raising 92 percent of total proceeds, according to Dealogic. In the first quarter of 2000, just seven out of 140 US IPOs listed on the NYSE.

"Most IPOs traditionally list on the Nasdaq," said Kyle Huske, an analyst with financial data firm IPO Group. "When the Nasdaq isn't doing well, that window closes, or narrows considerably."

There are signs of hope for riskier IPOs by smaller companies. Overall IPO filings rose to 46 in the first quarter from 23 in the fourth quarter and 38 in the first quarter of last year, Dealogic said.

Also, attitudes are improving.

"The IPO market basically is heavily dependent on investor psychology," said Alexander Cheung, manager of the Quaker-Long Bow Science & Technology Fund.

"January was nothing. February, we had a few come in, but nothing to write home about. But in March, we had a few biggies," he said. "You take a correlation with the macro situation, and it's basically in line with the rise in confidence."

More technology offerings should result as confidence builds in the second half of this year, Cheung said.

"With the economy improving and tech capital spending improving, we should see more offerings gradually coming out toward the end of the summer, and early in the fourth quarter," he said. *Reuters*

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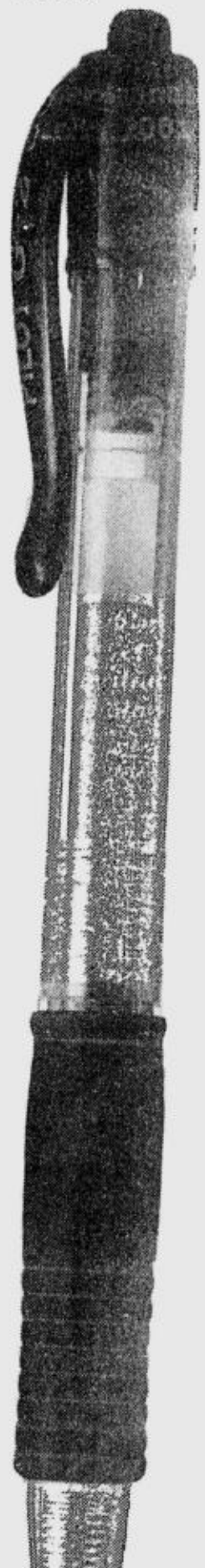

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Country Waffles, Gantimpala Theater whip up summer workshops

WHO SAYS fine dining and good theater cannot mix? There is, after all, Dinner Theater. Country Waffles and Gantimpala are joining hands to offer the Children's Musical Theater Workshops and Teen's Musical Theater Workshops this summer.

From Wednesday, April 3 to May 19, Country Waffles Annapolis in Greenhills and Eastwood, Libis together with the artists of Gantimpala Theater conducts the Children's Musical Theater from 9 a.m. to 12 noon (class 1) every Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and every 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (class 2) on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This is open to boys and girls 6 to 12 years old and will serve as an introduction to the basics of musical theater through exercises, theater games and creative dramatics. A showcase will be mounted at the end.

Teen's Musical Theater, for males and females 13 years and above, is scheduled Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. for Class 1 and every Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. for class 2.

Both these workshops will have Country Waffles Greenhills and Libis as venues.

Meanwhile, exclusively to be held at the Gantimpala Theater Makati office are two specialized workshops: Voice and Singing for Children, Teens and Adults on Fridays and Saturdays only from April 12 to May 25. Children's classes are from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, teens from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., and adults from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

An exclusive workshop on Stage and Production Management will be offered at the GTF office in Makati on Sundays only, from April 14 to May 26 from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. GTF-trained staff are considered the best and are most sought after in shows and concerts in the local entertainment scene. This is a practical course on stage and production management that will include rehearsal procedures, prompting and cueing, plus budgeting.

With Country Waffles' comfortable setting and good food plus Gantimpala's 25 years of expertise in production and acting, this joint venture should be the most palatable workshops to be offered this summer. For more information, call the GTF office at 8005-F. Tanguile corner Kamagong Streets, San Antonio Village, Makati City at 897-1533, telefax 895-8314 or e-mail gantimpala@pacific.net.ph, or log on to www.geocities.com/gantimpala. Country Waffles Greenhills can be called at 722-4415/22 and Country Waffles Libis at 421-3331/36. Enrollment is ongoing.

NBI BAGS ANVIL

Director Reynaldo Wycoco of the National Bureau of Investigation (center) shares the Anvil Award with Mega Group president and CEO Rafael Garcia III (second from right) and Agatep Associates Inc (AAI) president Charlie Agatep (second from left) for improved quality and productivity in public service. The NBI was cited for installing NBI clearance renewal centers in shopping malls around Metro Manila that enable Filipinos to secure an NBI clearance in just five minutes. Looking on are Dr. Ronaldo Asuncion (left) and Mega Group vice president and chief marketing officer Jose Avedillo (right). Mega Data Corp, the systems integration company of the Mega Group of Computer Companies, has been the technical systems provider of the NBI since 1977.

HEALTH AWARENESS, ALWAYS

With the fast-paced lifestyle and pressure from everyday work, people nowadays tend to forget or have overlooked their health. Most often, when sickness hits, it's already too late. Various programs have been implemented to prevent these illnesses. Programs such as Bone Densitometry, Body Mass Index Measurement, Cholesterol Triglycerides and Lipid Profile Test, and a lecture on proper nutrition are now being conducted in companies in line with Nutrition Consciousness Month. Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. (CCBPI) is one of the firms in the country that address such concerns. As the good old saying goes, 'Health is wealth.'

Graduation and Lenten offerings at Burgoo

Burgoo American Bar and Restaurant joins all graduates in celebrating the good life. After years of studies and hard work, what a better way to commemorate graduation than to feast on your favorite dishes together with your family who loves and supports you through the years.

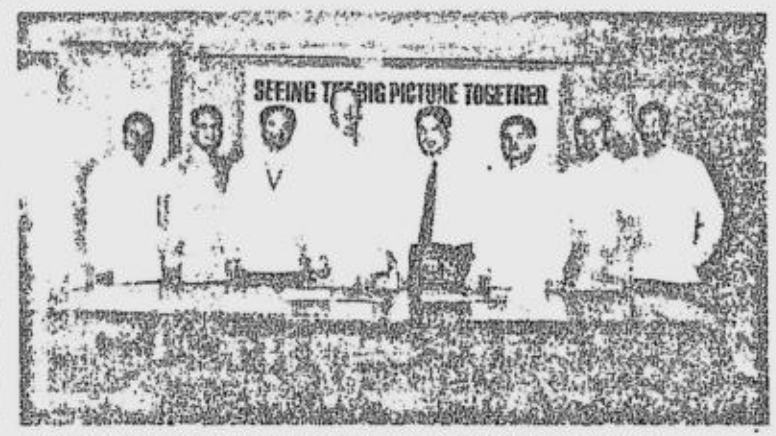
As a special treat, Burgoo is giving away elegant and beautiful sign pens to all graduates who dine in with their family on this very special day. Burgoo offers its all-time favorite dishes such as Oklahoma Style Grilled Baby Back Ribs, Country-Style Fried Chicken, N'Awlin's Classic Platter, Burgoo Kebabs, New York Strip Steak, Supreme Nachos, and Oriental Chicken Salad. Don't forget to order its delicious pizzas and pastas, and luscious desserts.

So, what are you waiting for? Graduates, it's time to celebrate! After all, it's what life is for.

Meanwhile, this coming Lenten season, Burgoo offers its savory seafood fares, namely: Lemon Peppered Grilled Lapu-Lapu, Friday Fish Fry, Grilled Squid ala Pobre, Seafood Linguini, Supreme Blackened Salmon, and Oyster Parmingiana.

Visit Burgoo American Bar and Restaurant at No. 310 Tomas Morato Extension, South Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City; 3rd Level Powerplant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati City; and at the 2nd Level, The Podium, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City. It is open daily from 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. the following day.

At Burgoo, it's always a family treat.



DIGITELONE PROVIDES INFRASTRUCTURE

DigitelOne, the data communications arm of Digitel, has inked an agreement with US-based eTelecare International to provide the latter with the communications backbone which is necessary for the operation and delivery of eTelecare's call center services to local companies and those in the South Asian region. The alliance calls for the provision of superior digital telephony and Internet bandwidth redundancy that will enable eTelecare to receive and transmit voice and data communications either from its clients or its customers simultaneously and in real time. Present during the signing were (from left) DigitelOne sales manager Armand Ducanes, DigitelOne AVP for sales Allan Santos, eTelecare IT manager Renato Derpo, eTelecare VP for IT Patrick Beville, DigitelOne president Lance Gokongwei, DigitelOne managing director Brian Go, DigitelOne VP Patrick Palacios, and DigitelOne corporate account manager Martin Toledo.

DOMINO'S 'COMMUNITY NIGHT'

Domino's, the world's pizza delivery expert, recently celebrated the 4th anniversary of its Libis outlet via a 'Community Night' which treated special guests, loyal patrons and friends from the press to a fun-filled program. Domino's served their famous hot and fresh pizzas with their popular side dishes. The celebration was highlighted with an awarding of a special token to 8-year-old Joshua Gurango, Domino Libis' most loyal customer and a '12-minute Carry Out Challenge'. Shown is Joshua with the management team of Domino's (front row, from left) Bong Abadilla, Domino's area manager, lawyer Bedgie Aquino, co-owner of Domino's Libis; Christine Furigay, co-owner of Domino's Libis, and Bobby Vallar, Domino's marketing officer. Back row, from left, is Dennis Aquino, co-owner/proprietor of Domino's Libis; Carlo Severino, Domino's Pizza Phils. president and Germin Espino, Domino's general manager.

Product Files

Hang Ten wristwatches, for free

HANG TEN Philippines, a popular casual apparel brand, gives you time to celebrate this March as it offers its colorful and fashionable wristwatch for free with every minimum single receipt purchase of P800. For the whole month of March, you can have the hip watches all for yourself with two cool colors to choose from—blue and yellow.

You can also avail yourself of the Hang Ten wristwatch for only P99 with every minimum single receipt purchase of P600.

STAMPEDE!

A STAMPEDE of pick-ups in Asia Brewery's Colt 45 Prize Stampede promotion where special edition Ford Stampede pick-ups are given away as top prizes. To win these rugged trucks, beer drinkers match a set of five crowns completing the phrase "Colt 45—Are You Man Enough?" with a crown bearing a pick-up icon underneath. ABI distributors nationwide will hand over Ford Stampede pick-ups to holders of these crowns. Additionally, 4,500 Umbro sports watches from the United Kingdom and millions of free Colt 45 330 ml may be won in the promo. The promo started March 15 and lasts until June 15.

PI-M COVER FROM GENERALI PILIPINAS

Roselle Nava draws the winning stubs of the One Stop Insurance Shop promo of Generali Pilipinas Life Assurance Company and Generali Pilipinas Insurance Company during her recent concert in Megamall. Looking on are officers from Generali Pilipinas marketing division (from left) Ramon Garcia, assistant manager; Joel Sarmenta, marketing support officer; and Bogs Rodriguez, senior manager. The winners shall each get a free P1 million personal accident cover from Generali Pilipinas Insurance Company. Generali Pilipinas, the insurer without frontiers, which offers both life and non-life insurance products at its office at the fifth floor of Megamall Building A, co-sponsored the mall concert tour of Roselle Nava who is promoting her new album 'All About Love'. Generali Pilipinas is a joint venture of Assicurazioni Generali Sp.A., Italy's largest corporation; Jerneh Asia Berhad of the Kuok Group; and Banco de Oro Universal Bank of the SM Group.

MAP CONTRACTS TEAMASIA FOR CEO CONFAB

The Management Association of the Philippines has contracted TeamAsia to plan and manage its annual international management conference. The 2002 conference, titled 'Defining the New Asian Corporation: Its Leadership, Character, and Passion, will take place June 19. The featured keynote speaker is world-renowned Harvard Business School professor Robert S. Kaplan. Kaplan is the author of 'The Balanced Scorecard,' 'Cost & Effect', and 'The Strategy Focused Organization'. Shown signing the agreement, from left, are Michael Alan Hamlin and Monette Iturralde Hamlin, managing director and president of TeamAsia, respectively, Arnold Salvador, MAP executive director (standing), Ramon Y. Dimacali, MAP president for 2002, and Edward Fereira, MAP governor and chair of the conference committee. The conference is being presented by BayanTrade.

Jollibee supports literacy campaign

IN LINE with its corporate thrust to develop the Filipino children's talent and creativity, Jollibee Foods Corp. partnered with the Sa Aklat Sisikat Foundation, a literacy campaign focused on the 4th grade level of the public school system, in order to develop the love and habit for reading.

Jollibee's active involvement with the program is highlighted by its supportof the program's implementation in seven Marikina-based public schools. The program will give the beneficiary schools 40 book titles for each section, set up a Tuklas-SAS Reading Corner and provide provisions for teachers training.

According to Pinky Laurena, marketing manager for Jollibee, its support also extends to encouraging parents and teachers to help promote reading among schoolchildren.

"It is a fact that reading does not only help in developing literacy but it also puts everyday happiness in the children's path to learning and developing positive values. Together, the parents, teachers and Jollibee who are part of the community can help in encouraging schoolchildren to develop the habit of reading in order to build a nation of readers. To read is to find happiness."

AIM, PAPSCU SIGN MOA

A memorandum agreement on the AIM Program 'Strategic Positioning for Education Leaders' scheduled April 15 to 19 was recently signed between the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) and the Philippine Association of Private Schools (Papscu). Shown are (from left) Dr. Pete Esteban, president of Techno-Voc Accrediting Association of the Philippines; Dr. Horace Montefrio, chair of the linkages committee and director of Papscu; Cynthia Mamon, president of Sun Microsystems Phils. Inc., Papscu partner; Dr. Karen Tamayo, Papscu secretary and director; AIM dean Eduardo A. Morato; Antonio Yap, Papscu president, Dr. Abelardo Perez, president of the University of Batangas and Papscu past president; Dr. Augusto Sunico, chair of the Papscu legal committee; Dr. Ed Monzon, treasurer and chair of finance, ways and means committee and director of Papscu; Dr. Jose Campos, Papscu vice president, and professor Milagros Lagrosa, AIM education management program director.

BITS Clips

Poetic film workshop

MULTI-AWARDED filmmaker and internationally recognized film scholar and film educator Nick Deocampo will be facilitating this year's Poetic Film Workshop to be held at the Mowelfund Film Institute starting April 10. Deocampo leads the country's top short filmmakers in an intensive five-month film production workshop, which tackles directing and writing, cinematography, assistant directing/production management, editing, sound and production design. Application period is until April 3. For more information, call the Mowelfund Film Institute at 723-4058/727-1915/727-1961.

Camarines Sur High Homecoming

ALL GRADUATES of Class 1977 of the Camarines Sur National High School, Naga City are invited to their reunion on April 6 at the CSNHS campus in Naga City. Call Ma. Francia A. Quimson at (045)473-1324 in Naga City, Marie Alcantara-Deleña at 632-1034 during office hours, or at her Manila residence at 838-2198.

National Library hikes fees.

THE NATIONAL Library of the Philippines would like to inform the public that it will increase its fees on Copyright Registration from P100 to P120, certified true copies of registered Copyright certificates, recordal and other certifications from P10 to P30.

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INVITATION TO BID

Bids are hereby invited from LWUA-accredited manufacturers/ suppliers/distributors/dealers for the supply and delivery of various pipes, fittings, electro-mechanical equipment (including installation) and other water supply materials for various LWUA-assisted projects.

Accredited firms will be notified in writing of the schedule of bidding for the second quarter of year 2002. Bid documents, including specifications for each bidding, will be available two (2) weeks before the scheduled bid opening at the BAC Secretariat, Ground Floor, LWUA Building, Katipunan Road Balara, Diliman, Quezon City.

(Sgd.) **EDWIN T. RUIZ**
Chairman, BAC 2

(PDI--April 1 & 2, 2002)

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

March 8, 2002

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Housing Authority is inviting interested contractors who have completed similar projects (at least 50% of Contract Cost) within the last three (3) years and accredited with PCAB/IAC to bid for the contract listed below:

Contract Package	Scope of Works	Contract Cost (Php)	PCAB Category	IAC Classification
1. PCSO-NHA Kapalaran Village Project, Camarin, Caloocan City	Land development	30.00 M	AA	Large "A" for Roads

A. Eligibility Statement forms, bid documents/ plans as well other information are available at the Office of the BAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, NHA Main Building, Diliman, Quezon City upon submission of the following a) Letter of Intent; b) PCAB/IAC License; c) Certificate of Completion/ Acceptance and Contract Agreement of completed similar project; and d) Presentation of above-cited original documents for authentication purposes.
B. Interested contractors may contact the BAC Technical/Secretariat at telephone nos. 926-5816 and 928-4551 to 65 local 262 for additional information.
C. Payment of non-refundable fee of P2,500.00 per set shall be received only from authorized representatives.
D. Bid deposits shall be in the form of cash, Manager's or Cashier's Check.
E. Deadline of submission of LOI/issuance of bid documents is on April 2, 2002. Schedule of Pre-Bid Conference and other bidding activities shall be announced through bid bulletins.
F. NHA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive formally any minor defect thereon, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) JOSEPH PETER S. SISON
Assistant General Manager
Chairman, Bid and Award Committee

(PDI - March 15, 22 & April 2, 2002)

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OFFICE FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT - Executive/Clerical Chairs; Personal Computers; Printers, Single/Double Office Tables, Unused Ball Pens; Portable Manual Typewriters; Steel Plan Cabinets, Steel Filing Cabinets, etc.
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PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED RURAL BANK OF LAVEZARES (Northern Samar), INC. (RBLI)

1. Starting April 2, 2002, the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) thru its duly authorized representatives shall receive claims for insured deposits maintained with the closed Rural Bank of Lavezares (Northern Samar), Inc.
2. Depositors are requested to proceed directly to the premises of the said closed bank from April 2 to April 16, 2002, Mondays thru Fridays, during office hours, where PDIC representatives are stationed to accept claims and entertain queries of depositors.

   After April 16, 2002, all depositors can file their claims personally at the PDIC office from Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or by mail addressd to -

   The Manager
   Claims Processing Center
   Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation
   2228 Chino Roces Avenue, 1231 Makati City
3. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to our representatives when filing their claims:
   a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook and/or Certificate of Time Deposit; and
   b. Latest identification document (ID) bearing the depositor's signature

   Other documents may be required by our representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.
4. Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 3591 as amended by R.A. 7400, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed Rural Bank of Lavezares (Northern Samar) Inc. is on June 28, 2003. After June 28, 2003, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI--April 1 & 2, 2002)

OBITUARIES

Message of Thanks

For visiting us and being with us in our time of sorrows...
For praying with us and for us...
For the Mass cards and messages of sympathy and condolence...
For the beautiful flowers and gifts to express compassion...
For joining us in our nightly vigils...
For attending the Masses and funeral rites...
For thinking of us in hour of grief...
For all that you have done to console our hearts...

Our sincerest gratitude.

From the family of the late

Ramon Pozon Perez

(Batangas City)

who joined his CREATOR on March 17, 2002

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The Andaman Group of Companies

(of Quezon Province)

would like to extend its most heartfelt sympathy to its Chairman and President, **Dr. Pat Andaman**, his siblings, family and relatives for the demise of his mother,

DOMINGA ANICO ANDAMAN

"Nanay Inggay"

Founder and Treasurer
ST. DOMINIC MEDICAL CENTER
Bacoor, Cavite and Bucal, Maragondon, Cavite

Peacefully joined our Lord on March 27, 2002 at the age of 78.

Her loving husband **GREGORIO Sr.**; children **PAT** and **Elvie**, **MARET** and **Rey Rillo**; **EMMIE** and **Joe Sagala**; **Mayor MONTE** and **Tita**; **YNN** and **Robert Pelia**; **JOJO** and **Pinky**;

GRANDCHILDREN **Anna** and **Boogie**, **Jane** and **Alain**, **Jade**, **Jasmine**, **Caroline**, **Gregorio III** and **Aimee**; **Reimarie**; **Julius Christian**, **Jeffrey**, **Jenny**; **Mon Anthony**, **Margaret Raizza**, **Dominga Erika**; **Angelique Lyn**, **Dominique Ann**, **Stephanie Joy**; **Greg Jinichi**, **Greg Cenon**, **Greg Dominic**, **Greg Luigi** and **Ma. Anastasia**; GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN **Patricia Audrey**, **Ima Karen** and **Matthew Dreyzel**; Brothers and sisters, in-laws and her St. Dominic Family request relatives, friends and readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence in Bucal II, Maragondon, Cavite.

Interment will be on Wednesday, April 3, 2002, after the 3:00 PM Mass.

Our Dearly Beloved

LEONORA DOMINGUEZ DE DIOS

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on March 29, 2002 at the age of 79.

Her loving husband **Pacifico** (†); children **Pacifico Jr.** (†), **Tommy**, **Anna** & **Lito**, **Gregorio** (†), **Rossa** & **Rollie**, **Bernard** (†), **Annie**, **Rey** & **Angie**; sister **Adeling**; brother **Efren** (†); grandchildren **Marifi**, **Mel**, **Michael**, **Maverick**, **Mathilda**, **Ferdinand**, **Jeffrey**, **Jenny Ann**, **Patrick**, **Ashley**, **Roland**, **Ryan**, **Raquel** & **Liezle**; great grandchildren **Derek**, **Isaiah**, **Shamara**, **Tamaya**, **Joseph**, **Jopet** & **Justin**; relatives and friends request prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Chapel A, La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City till April 3, 2002 and it will be moved to the Abucay, Bataan on April 4, 2002.

Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 A.M. on Saturday, April 6, 2002. Interment will immediately follow at the Abucay Catholic Cemetery, Bataan.

Our Dearly Beloved

ISABEL MICUA REDUQUE-MINA

(Retired Public Schools District Supervisor)

Peacefully joined her CREATOR on March 27, 2002 at the age of 75.

Her husband **PRIMO**; children **EDEN**, **MARION**, **RODERICK** and **WINSTON**; children-in-law **RICO**, **ROSE** and **JOCELYN**; grandchildren **CYBILL**, **JODY**, **ANDRE**, **AARON**, **ANNA**, **ALYSSA**, **ATHALIA**, **ANGELA** and **JON RAIMUND**; sisters **HEGENIA**, **JULIA**, **MARINA**, **RUFINA**, **AILEEN** and **RUBILYN**; relatives and friends request prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at their residence, 12 MacArthur Highway, Bacag, Villasis, Pangasinan.

Interment will be on Saturday, April 6, 2002 at 7:30 a.m.

(Ret.) Capt. SILVESTRE S. VAGGAS

of Tabuk, Kalinga Apayao

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on April 1, 2002 at the age of 84.

His bereaved wife **Remedios Caronan Vaggas**; children **Jessie & Gloria Vaggas-Lamarr**, **Silvestre Jr.** (†) & **Marina Cusipag-Vaggas**, **Carmelo & Mary Julma Vaggas-Iringan** (†), **Bienvenido Sr. & Concepcion Vaggas-Baruelo**, **Laluz Vaggas**; grandchildren and great grandchildren and other relatives request your prayers.

His body lies in state at Chapel A-1, La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Saturday, April 6, 2002 at 10:00 AM at Funeraria Paz Crematory.

In Loving Memory
First Death Anniversary

CORAZON FERRER-LUMAWIG

of Parañaque
(March 22, 1915 - April 2, 2001)

Holy Masses for her eternal peace and happiness will be offered at the following churches today, April 2, 2002

• St. James Parish	Ayala Alabang	6:00 am & 6:30 pm
• Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament	Valle Verde 5	6:30 am
• Center for Peace Asia	Mandaluyong City	12:15 pm
• Mary the Queen Parish	Greenhills, San Juan	6:00 pm
• St. Norbert's Church & La Purisima Church	City of Orange, California	

We, the members of Corazon Lumawig's family, request all her loved ones, relatives, friends and pious readers to join us in prayers for her.

ATTY. ZOSIMO GUEVARA ORCINE

of Pili, Camarines Sur
Former Philippine Scout, Justice of Peace, Bombon, Camarines Sur and Provincial Secretary, Camarines Sur.

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on March 28, 2002.

His loving wife, **Ambrocia**; children and spouses, **Oscar**, **Cynthia** and **Ronald**, **Liberty** and **Terence**, **Monsi** and **Grace**, **Josephine** and **Albert**, grandkids, brothers and sister, in-laws, nephews, nieces; relatives and friends request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Dulce Memorial Chapel, Dinalupihan St., J. Abad Santos Ave., Manila.

Interment will be announced later.

Untitled real property in RP amounts to $133B

By Florentino S. Dulalia Jr.
Contributor

THE TOTAL of untitled real estate where millions of Filipino households live amounts to about $133 billion.

This is according to world- renown consultant and writer named Hernando de Soto who heads the worldwide Institute of Liberty and Democracy based in Peru. His research shows that in the Philippines, 57 percent of the urban population and 67 percent of people in the countryside live in housing that is "dead capital." This means untitled real estate which otherwise could be used by the poor in making what he calls "a success in capitalism."

One of the wealthiest

If converted into capital, these untitled lands can make our country one of the wealthiest in Asia. De Soto equates the Philippines' $133 billion "dead capital" to "four times the capitalization of the 216 domestic companies listed in the Philippine Stock Exchange, seven times the deposits in the country's commercial banks, nine times the total capital of state-owned enterprises, and 14 times the value of all foreign direct investment."

Housing always ranks on top of any government's pro-poor agenda because the poor deserve dignity and a better quality of life. The economic implication of housing, however, places the element of dignity on a broader scale. All housing programs must uphold individual dignity and quality of life as well as spur national progress and prosperity.

Granting the poor greater privileges and opportunities for land access and shelter security reinforces the country's economic foundation. Legal property ownership enables the poor, in the words of De Soto, "to produce, secure or guarantee greater value in the expanded market."

Cornerstone

It is encouraging to know that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo considers housing as one of the two cornerstones of her pro-poor programs, the other being early childhood education. Streamlining the government's housing operations and reducing the steps in the entire process of land conversion and urban land reform are now being done to accelerate housing delivery.

Under the government's Community Mortgage Program (CMP), for instance, the number of documentary requirements for loan has been cut down from 56 to 23 and finally to 18 in compliance with Ms Macapagal's order to fast-track the housing program. The CMP provides that informal settlers have to organize themselves into duly registered community associations for group housing loans for the acquisition of an undivided parcel of land under the concept of community ownership.

(The writer is the national president of Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations Inc.)

NEW FAÇADE
In 1982 Manuela Las Piñas revolutionized the mall lifestyle of shoppers in the area. Opening its doors to the new breed of shoppers, Manuela Las Piñas will transform into a new mall, MStar Las Piñas. Shown is the new façade of the community mall. The new name, together with the logo, reflects the vitality of the shopping complex—young and dynamic. Ongoing on the ground floor is phase I of the renovation that started during last year's last quarter, while phase 2 continues this year with the completion of the refurbishment of MStar Las Piñas.

Ayala Land mass housing arm reaches out to Pag-Ibig members

TO FAMILIES who aspire for affordable and economic housing, the benefits of Pag-Ibig's low monthly payments, low interest rates and extended payment terms are now available through the tie-up between Laguna Properties Holdings Inc.—the mass housing arm of Ayala Land Inc.—and Pag-Ibig or Home Mutual Development Fund.

With the tie-up, selecting a home from the array of house-and-lot models in LPHI's developments in Naga City, Lucena City, Batangas City, Sto. Tomas in Batangas, and Trece Martires in Cavite is now easier for Pag-Ibig members and would-be members.

Savings

This collaboration makes available to buyers the savings offered by Pag-Ibig's low interest rates (9 to 14 percent) as well as long periods of payments of up to 30 years and low monthly amortizations of P3,500. Under this arrangement, down payments can also be low.

To avail of this opportunity, the only requirement is to be a Pag-Ibig member for a minimum of two years.

A TYPICAL LPHI unit—the TEX 77 (floor area: 77 sq. m)—now available in Naga, Lucena, Cavite and Batangas.

Reason for success

Satisfying customers' needs has always been the norm at the LPHI and is a reason for its success in the housing industry. The collaboration of the LPHI and Pag-Ibig is a concrete example of how the LPHI strives to meet customers' needs during a period when economic recovery is underway and affordability is a main concern of buyers.

With this partnership between the LPHI and Pag-Ibig, Ayala quality homes are now within easy reach.

What to consider about home loans

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

JUDGING by the giant posters advertising very low interest rates on home loans, it would be easy to lure unsuspecting individuals to take the offer.

It seems too good to be true, and unfortunately in many cases it really is not true. Or at least, not as true as advertised.

Martyn Potter, HSBC vice president for sales, says in an interview that prospective homeowners should consider their decision carefully as a home loan represents one of the biggest investments that people would make, and it would tie up their money for at least the next 15 years.

HSBC's Audrey F. Regis has outlined key points to consider while studying options presented by the different banks and financial institutions.

• Don't be fooled by the low rate offered on the first year.

Regis says banks usually offer very low rates on the first year to catch the public's attention but they would charge higher than market rate when the interest rate is revised in the following years.

"Ask the bank for instance what their interest rate for repricing at the time that you are taking out the loan. It should be the same or near the interest rate they are offering for the new loans," Regis says.

• Ask for a printout of the amortization schedule on the different repayment terms. This is to allow easy comparison of the different terms and how much it would take out of their pay. It would be good to get different amortization schedules for 5-, 10-, 15- or 20-year terms.

• Ask how long it would take the bank to actually release the loan proceeds. Banks will advertise 5-7-day loan application periods, but some take a long time before the fund is actually released.

• Ask for out-of-pocket costs that are not advertised. These include processing fees, registration, documentary stamps, mortgage redemption insurance and fire insurance.

• Ask if loan terms can be changed on repricing date. For example, if you signed up for a yearly fixing of the interest rate, then ask if it could be changed to a five-year fixing date. This is to take advantage of today's low interest rates or to reflect the changing personal circumstances of the person or family that took out the loan.

"It is also important to look at the background of the bank. You have to make sure that it would be able to give a good price and would be around for the duration of the loan. Do not be taken by just the low rates. Compare the different offers," Regis says.

The HSBC is one of the leading banks in the Philippines offering home loans. Its loan products are open to couples who have a joint income of at least P50,000.

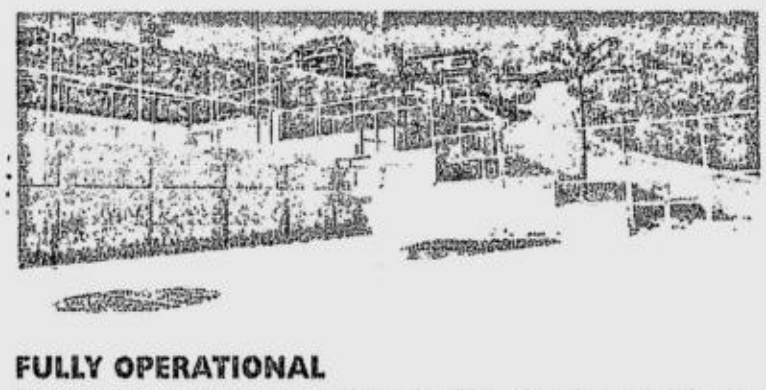
Federal Hardware opens Cainta Lumberyard

FEDERAL Hardware Builder's Center recently opened its third branch at No. 9 Imelda Avenue, Cainta, Rizal, after the success of its flagship store on Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo), Makati, and the second outlet in Taytay, Rizal .

Known for having the widest assortment of local and imported floor and wall tiles, Federal Hardware now boasts of a large-scale lumber section, which features a good mix of standard and decorative wooden doors, wooden cornice, moldings, cabinet doors, plywood, plyboards, kiln dried woods and wooden balusters, among others. Lumber products are available in all sizes and thickness. Friendly Federal Hardware sales professionals are on hand to attend to customers' lumber needs and can even help shoppers with custom cutting of their lumber requirements.

Aside from tile and lumber, other sections at Federal Hardware include plumbing, electrical, paints and sundries, hand and power tools, car care, lawn and garden and furniture and hardware.

The current product mix will be further enhanced as global sourcing for more products and better services will be introduced in all branches. Professional builders and do-it-yourself enthusiasts can now enjoy American-style, value hardware shopping with free ample parking and longer shopping hours from 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Mondays through Sundays.



FULLY OPERATIONAL
Homeowners at Georgetown Lakeview Vacation Estate in Metro Tagaytay can now enjoy its exclusive sports facilities such as a fully equipped gym and basketball and tennis courts. Now fully operational, these amenities are intended to provide residents the ultimate in sports and recreation. To be inaugurated this summer is its recently completed 800-sq.-m clubhouse, which houses a heated swimming pool and game room for billiards, table tennis, darts, chess and video game aficionados.

First affordable garden homes in Antipolo

MIRA Verde Garden Homes marked its soft launch late last year. Simple opening rites were marked with a celebration of the Holy Mass, followed by ribbon-cutting ceremonies, blessing of the site and the unveiling of the scale housing models. Guest of honor included Manuel Crisostomo, former president and chief executive officer of Pag-Ibig Fund and Rocio P. Baltao, head of Natalia Realty Corp., landowner of the Antipolo Hills Subdivision.

Land development is almost finished while the model house is expected be ready for viewing by the first week of April in time for the project's first grand open house.

Nestled amid the picturesque landscape of Antipolo Hills, the project is strategically located. It is only 30 minutes away from the major business and commercial centers of Pasig and Quezon City and about 15 kilometers away from the central business district of Ortigas.

The project site is accessible via three major road networks—the Marcos Highway, the Sumulong Highway and the Ortigas Avenue Extension—where public transportation to and from the Antipolo City proper and the adjacent urban business districts is readily available.

Mira Verde Garden Homes shall form part of a bigger, 40-hectare master-planned development, the basic concept of which seeks to promote the preservation of the natural environment, with all its lush greenery and uncluttered view. The plan envisions the development of future residential communities, set amid landscaped rock gardens, fishponds, organic herb gardens, hiking trails and campsites, prayer gardens, spiritual retreat havens and nature spots—all within some 40 hectares of land in Antipolo Hills.

More deals for Delta Circuit Club members

ARCHITECTS, interior designers and engineers who are privileged members of the Delta Circuit Club can now enjoy more exciting deals with the new discount schemes of the Delta Circuit Club card.

Delta Faucet, America's No. 1 faucet brand, has just added more participating establishments to the Delta Circuit Club Card which offers discounts and other perks to its exclusive roster of members in the construction industry.

The final roster of participating establishments in the discount scheme is sure to be relevant to the lifestyle of the country's top construction professionals.

Fitness, leisure

For their health and fitness needs, members can avail of 40 percent discount on annual dues at Clark Hatch Gym in Dusit Hotel Nikko or 50 percent discount on annual dues at Clark Hatch Gym in Intercontinental Hotel Makati City. Members can also try out the currently popular boxing fitness regimen at Red Corner Gym where they can avail of 25 percent discount on membership fees and 30 percent off on massage services.

For business meetings and leisurely pursuits, members can avail of 5 to 10 percent discounts at Streetlife Restaurant in Glorietta, Monk's Dream Jazz Bar in Jupiter St., Makati City or Gutson's Billiards with branches in Ortigas and Quezon City. For business functions and private parties, Delta Circuit Club members can get a free gift certificate with Cabalen Catering Services.

Frequent business trips to check out construction site or to hold business meetings need not be too expensive with the Delta Circuit Club Card.

Rooms, airfare

Club members can now avail of discounts ranging from 10 percent to as much as 40 percent off on room rates, food and beverages, laundry, and other services at luxurious hotels and resorts such as the Cebu Plaza Hotel, Park Place Hotel, Richmond Plaza Hotel, Mango Park Hotel, Cebu White Sand at Maribago Beach and Cebu Marine Beach Resort. Other participating resorts are Lorenzo Main South Grand Villa in Boracay and Vistamar Beach Resort in Anilao, Batangas.

For affordable airfare, Delta Circuit Club members can get discounted tickets from Star Diamond Travel which is giving 5-15 percent off on economy and business class rates around Asia, the United States and Europe.

Other discounts

Members can also catch up on the latest architecture and design with an attractive deal from Blu Print magazine: P500 off on 1-year subscription in Metro Manila and P697 off on 1-year subscription outside Metro Manila.

Electroworld is also offering 20 percent off on services, 10 percent off on extended warranty and 5 percent off on accessories. These may be availed at any of Electroworld's 12 branches in Metro Manila and nearby cities.

All discount schemes are valid until Sept.14.

Integrated home investment services offered

ELECTRONIC Realty Associates-(ERA) Philippines Inc., the local subsidiary of a global real estate sales and services company, recently launched its innovative Home Investment Services program, an integrated package of value-added services designed to benefit ERA customers who are in the market for homes and even offices.

Team-up

Under the program, the ERA has teamed up with leading companies to offer its clients outstanding support services in the areas of home design, construction and project management, interior design, financing, furniture, fixtures and appliances selection and moving and relocation services, available for free or at special discounted rates.

Among the firms tapped by the ERA under the scheme are Chinatrust (Phils.) Commercial Bank Corp. for home financing; Custom Craft, Primafil Inc. and Abenson Inc. for furniture, fixtures and appliances; Steven J. Leach + Associates Inc. and Expert Interior Products for interior design; and Quickpak for moving and relocation services.

Services

Home and office builders can avail themselves of free services such as construction cost estimating, preconstruction counseling, architectural and engineering analysis, home loan referral and construction supervision. Other services such as interior design, selection and purchase of furniture, fixtures and appliances and relocation are offered at special preferred rates.

The ERA's Home Investment Services program thus offers a wholly integrated, highly professional and efficient alternative to do-it-yourself home building with all its problems and inconveniences.

Dream house

"With Home Investment Services, a lot owner simply delegates to the ERA the responsibility of having his dream house designed, built, financed and furnished so that he can best attend to the demands of his work and his family," said Enrique Soriano III, chief executive officer and country manager of ERA Philippines.

The ERA has set itself apart from traditional property consultancy firms with a unique trend-setting portfolio of residential and commercial services that respond and adapt to the changing needs of the market, Soriano said.

In addition to the innovative home building services it is known for in the industry, the ERA puts its proven marketing expertise and a vast networking system with more than 3,000 offices worldwide at the service of its clients.

REALESTATE
Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Demand for luxury residence remains soft

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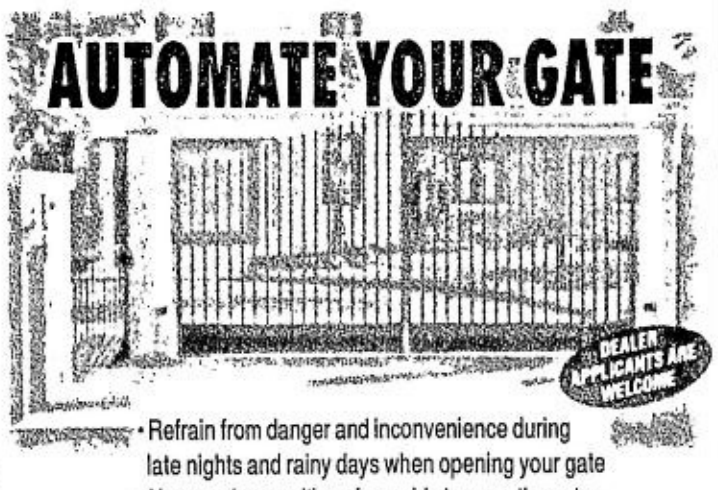

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WEAK demand and stagnant prices characterize the current state of the luxury residential segment in the Philippines. While rents and prices have bottomed out, the demand for high-rise residence in the Makati CBD continues to be soft as multinational companies have rationalized costs and are being prudent in hiring expatriates.

Based on Colliers International's latest Philippine property market overview, the occupancy in high-rise residential apartments in the Makati CBD continues to deteriorate. As of year-end 2001, the vacancy rate was recorded at 11.7 percent from 11.6 percent in the third quarter of 2001.

On the supply side, the stock of residential apartments expanded by 3.5 percent to 8,387 units throughout 2001 with the completion of The Biltmore and One Roxas Triangle. Expectations are for the stock to further expand by 3.4 percent in 2002.

ILLUSTRATION: STEP BRAVO

Bottoming out

At the end of 2001, rents stood at an average of P358 per sq. m per month in the luxury 3-bedroom segment in the Makati CBD. Although the current level is 33.5 percent discount from peak values, rents have hovered at the current level in the last nine months supporting Colliers International's bottoming out scenario.

Interestingly, rentals on prime three-bedroom in Rockwell, an alternative location that gained popularity during the early part of 2001, fell by 2.1 percent QoQ. Even so, it still continued to outperform the CBD prime average of P358 per sq. m with its P533 per sq. m average monthly rent.

Similarly, prime residential capital values remain pegged at an average of P65,000 per sq. m. According to Richard Raymundo, research manager of Colliers International, "we expect prime three-bedroom prices to remain static as the theme of affordability continues to dominate the market."

Affordability

Raymundo said "the primary consideration for current buyers is the monthly amortization rather than the total contract price. For instance, recently launched affordable high-rise projects offer studio units sized at around 35 sq. m and a total contract price below P3 million." The goal of affordability is achieved through creative financing schemes and smaller unit configuration. The report cited that Rockwell Land launched The Manansala. Its price is relatively more affordable than their other projects starting at P2.63 million for a 36-sq.-m studio unit.

Colliers International in Asia Pacific is owned by the Colliers Macaulay Nicolls (CMN) Group of Companies, which is the largest member of Colliers International Property Consultants. Colliers currently maintains 33 majority owned subsidiaries in 10 countries across Asia Pacific. In total, Colliers International Property Consultants has over 200 offices worldwide in 52 countries on six continents with about 9,000 property professionals. In 2000, on a worldwide basis, Colliers International managed 465 million sq. ft with a revenue of US$1.1 billion.

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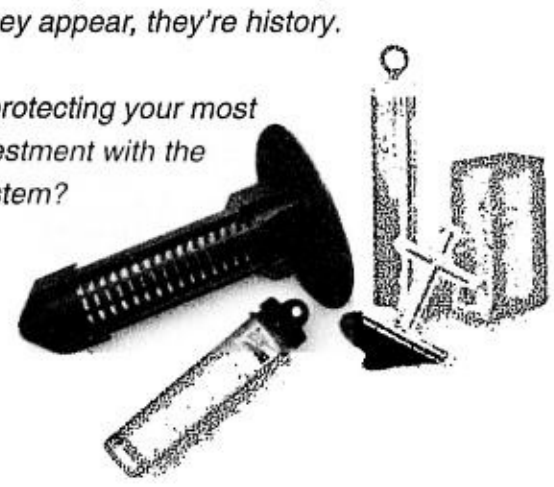

Termite inspection. *Sentricon stations surround home.* *Regular check-up for termite activity.* *Any termites found are exposed to Recruit II bait.* *Colony feeds on the bait and is eliminated.* *Monitoring continues for any new termites.*

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SENTRICON System offers total protection against termites.

Various lifestyles of annoying 'anay'

HARMLESS *gamu-gamo* or winged termites? When you see discarded wings near sliding doors or notice swarming winged insects near light fixtures ih your home, chances are there are termite galleries nearby and that the colony is possibly at least two years old.

Swarmers are mature male and female winged termites given off by the colony as potential kings and queens of new kingdoms. Depending on such factors as moisture, light intensity and temperature, termite reproductives swarm out of the parent colony at various times of the year. Following their short and fluttery dispersal, they lose their wings, pair off in a favorable site (by hollowing out a cell and sealing it from outside) to spawn a new colony. Each colony is built around the king and queen whose sole job is to reproduce: the queen becomes a virtual "egg-laying machine" refertilized by the king several times a year.

Distinct differences

As the colony matures, the individual members show distinct differences. Soldiers that protect the colony from invasion and enemies, have huge head capsules and large jaws or mandibles. They are unable to feed themselves and are fed by the termite workers. Termite workers creep all over the place to forage for food to sustain the colony. They enter through cracks in the foundation and openings in the building exterior, through joints, vents or unscreened attics, and consume hardwood flooring, ceiling beams, valuable books and documents, leaving your home severely damaged and costing you hundreds of thousands in structural repairs.

Dow Agro Sciences, US-based industry leader in pest control and training, developed a breakthrough technology that takes advantage of natural termite behavior so homeowners can bid goodbye to *anay* forever. Sentricon System offers total protection against termites because it gets termites where they live, effectively wiping out entire colonies. First, Sentricon feeding stations are installed in and around the property without having to drill through walls and floors, causing less disruption to daily activities. Once termites feed into the bait, the process of colony elimination begins. The termites ingest hexaflumuron, a growth inhibitor that stops the molting process so that the creatures are unable to grow and eventually die. After entire colonies have been eliminated, regular monitoring takes place to prevent renewed termite infestation.

Commitment

Sentricon is the technology that protects the White House, the US Statue of Liberty, the Philippine General Hospital, some Philippine historical sites, and many homes and properties across Metro Manila and Cebu, as well as other Asian and European homes and buildings. It was honored by the Clinton administration with the US Presidential Green Chemistry Award for its commitment to keep the environment safe. Hexaflumuron, the bait material in Sentricon, is the first pest control product in the United States to receive "fast-track" registration from the Environmental Protection Agency in the new "Reduced Pesticide Risk" category.

If you notice small piles of sawdust-like pellets on wooden frames, insect wings caught in cobwebs, or gathered on the floor or near light sources like windows, doors and vents, you may have good cause for alarm. Visit Sentricon at www.sentricon.com, and get the termites where they live before they ruin your home, your reputation and your lifestyle.

For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Fitness

ILLUSTRATIONS: JED ESTRADA

Not knowing how to read a nutrition label can lead to weight gain

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

A MILK-LOVING friend of mine excitedly called me up a few weeks ago proclaiming that she had discovered a 98-percent fat-free milk that tasted delicious. I shared her excitement because I also love milk. We both drink three to four glasses a day of nonfat or skim milk and although we are saving calories, we have to admit that it leaves much to be desired in the taste and texture department. Our dream has always been to find the lowest-calorie milk that tastes like full-cream or at least as close as possible to it.

When she handed me the small plastic bottle, I immediately looked at the nutrition label. Good thing it has become an ironclad habit of mine to always look at the nutrition information listed behind most food products because the milk had much more than 2-percent fat.

How was this possible? How could the milk claim to be 98 percent fat-free when it was not? Let's just say that the manufacturer did nothing wrong legally and was telling the truth. Confused? My friend sure was and I would have been, too, if I hadn't learned long ago how to become a nutrition label detective.

You see, there are so many products on the supermarket shelves today that manufacturers use catchy phrases to convince you to choose their product over the competition.

If you are health and fitness conscious, advertising blurbs like calorie-reduced, nonfat, cholesterol-free, lite, etc. will surely catch your attention.

Manufacturers cannot use these phrases without complying with the government's definition of these terms. So, they are telling the

NOT/ p.C2

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Sleep is the best time to rejuvenate

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

APART from counting sheep and watching late-night movies until dawn, most people suffering from insomnia can't think of better ways to deal with this condition.

According to the "Sleep Rx" by Norman Ford, there are at least six different types of insomnia. Which one are you according to these descriptions?

- Subjective insomnia—Each night, you're fretfully tossing and turning without seeming to sleep at all. You wake up exhausted but once totally awake, you are energetic.
- Initial insomnia—There's difficulty falling asleep.
- Sleep maintenance insomnia—Every 90 minutes, most wake up briefly as one sleep cycle begins and ends and remain awake for 30 minutes before sleeping again.
- Delayed sleep phase—Your biological clock is out of sync with conventional sleep-awake hours and you find it impossible to sleep before 3 a.m.
- Unfinished sleep—You fall asleep quickly but wake up at 4 or 5 a.m.
- Disturbed sleep—You're abruptly awakened by a nightmare, normally recurring.

Are you really an insomniac?

Somnologists frequently use a general yardstick to identify a person with insomnia.

- If you feel uncomfortable during the day and your memory recall, problem-solving, sex drive, mood and equanimity are not at par.
- You fall asleep doing routine chores (i.e., in front of a TV or in a meeting or while typing or sewing).
- You need an alarm clock to wake you up. (This applies to children as well.)

How much sleep?

Newborns require 16.5 hours of sleep a day; 6 months to 2 years, 12-14 hours; 3-10 years old, 10-12 hours; 11-19 years old, 8-9 hours; 20-49 years old, 7-7.25 hours; 50-80 years old, just six hours on the average.

The reason older people need less sleep is because their physical and mental activity lessens with age.

Drugs are not the answer

Studies have shown that while sleep inducers like tranquilizers may initially help a person to sleep, in the long run these same pills may cause sleeplessness and eventually addiction.

Other reasons a person cannot sleep are:

- Stress—emotional or mental
- Physical illness such as hypertension and diabetes
- Alcohol consumption after 7 p.m.
- Cigarette smoking
- Eating a heavy, high-fat meal late at night
- Going to bed hungry
- Lack of exercise

The natural way

- Walk for 10 minutes 1-2 hours before bedtime. Failing to do so will allow body fluids to pool in the feet and ankles causing edema, which will lead to a full bladder. Thus excessive nighttime urine flow.
- Take a cup of relaxing tea like chamomile, peppermint or valerian root (available in supermarkets and health food stores).
- Make a book your bedtime companion.
- Here's a visualization that works: Imagine you are sleeping under a grove of coconut trees by the seashore. Hear the wind rustle through the leaves while the rhythmic flow of the tide hypnotizes you to sleep deeply.
- Calcium sleep-rite—Mix one banana and a glass of hot nonfat milk in a blender. Add a pinch of cinnamon. Drink 30 minutes before bedtime.
- Finally, studies show that a satisfying lovemaking between married couples ensures a good night's sleep.

Sleep and peace

Without a doubt, one's bedroom should not be a war zone. If your room is, out of habit, a venue for venting your anger and frustration, then your bed will not help you to sleep.

Transform your room into a peaceful corner. Use your bedroom only for activities that promote love and calm.

Sleep and dreams

Sleep is so important to the body that it is the best time for our cells to recharge and regenerate. Quality sleep (and pleasant dreams) so profoundly affects our well-being that it is one of the major contributors to antiaging.

So sleep not only to rest but to look younger! Sweet dreams.

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Shoulder press

STRENGTHENS the front of shoulders and the upper back. There is also some benefit for the back of the upper arms (triceps).

Equipment:
Dumbbells

Exercise:

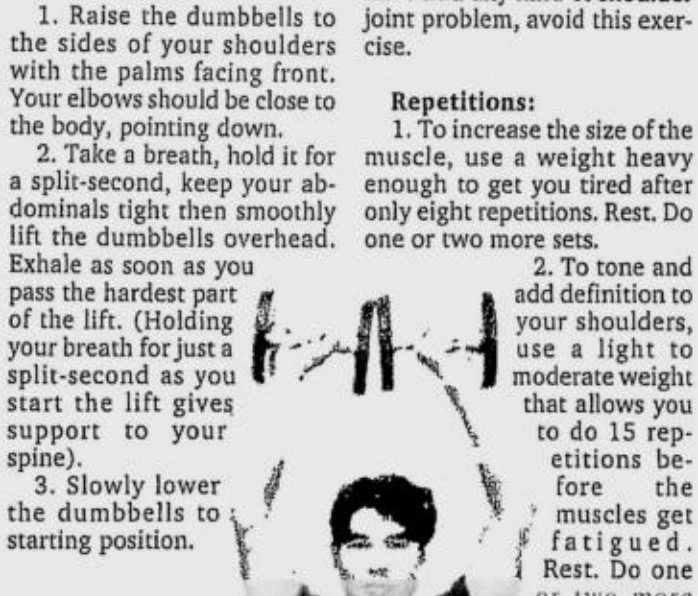
1. Raise the dumbbells to the sides of your shoulders with the palms facing front. Your elbows should be close to the body, pointing down.
2. Take a breath, hold it for a split-second, keep your abdominals tight then smoothly lift the dumbbells overhead. Exhale as soon as you pass the hardest part of the lift. (Holding your breath for just a split-second as you start the lift gives support to your spine).
3. Slowly lower the dumbbells to starting position.

Performance tips:

1. Do not allow the dumbbells to drift forward or backward when you lift the dumbbells overhead.
2. Keep your abdominals tight and do not allow your lower back to arch to lift the dumbbells upward. If you have had any kind of shoulder joint problem, avoid this exercise.

Repetitions:

1. To increase the size of the muscle, use a weight heavy enough to get you tired after only eight repetitions. Rest. Do one or two more sets.
2. To tone and add definition to your shoulders, use a light to moderate weight that allows you to do 15 repetitions before the muscles get fatigued. Rest. Do one or two more sets.



Not knowing how to read . . .

From page C1

truth but the truth can be stretched a little. Let me give you an example with products that claim to be "salt-free."

A product can legally claim to be salt-free even if it is high in sodium because "salt" refers to "sodium chloride." If the product contains only sodium but no chloride, it really is "salt-free." However, if you are salt-sensitive, it may not be safe for you because it is the sodium part of salt that causes high blood pressure and water retention, not the chloride. By the way, many products that aren't salty at all contain substantial amounts of sodium. Check out the nutrition label at the back of your favorite breakfast cereal. You just may get surprised.

When it comes to claims like that made by the milk product mentioned above, Judith Wills of The Food Bible points out that the percentage of fat quoted by manufacturers on the front of their products is usually the percentage of fat as compared to the total weight of the product not the total calories. This makes their product appear to be less fattening.

Here is Wills' explanation from her book. "Another anomaly regarding fat claims is that the percentage of fat content often quoted (e.g., French fries—only 5 percent fat) is misleading to say the least. By this, the manufacturer means that the fries contain 5 percent of their total weight as fat—i.e., 5 grams of fat per 100 grams of food. This does not mean that the fries only contain 5 percent of the total calories in the food as fat. All food—including fries, meat, cheese, and so on—contains a high or fairly high percentage of water (e.g., lean meat is 74-percent water, oven fries are about 60-percent water, hard cheese is about 36-percent water), which is calorie-free. So 5 percent of fat by weight turns out to be a much higher percentage of the total calories. Five grams of fat equals 45 calories, as there are nine calories per gram of fat. There are about 160 calories in 100 grams of oven fries. So the real amount of fat in the fries is 28 percent!"

Ninety-eight percent fat-free milk products like the one that my friend discovered are also sometimes advertised as 2-percent milk. An unknowing consumer might believe that only 2 percent of the total calories come from fat. The nutritional information at the back of this particular product showed that it had 140 total calories and 5 grams of fat, which equals 45 calories. So the product actually had 32 percent fat. Boy, was my friend shocked.

She was even more shocked when I explained to her that if she had used this product to take the place of her usual nonfat milk, she would be adding an additional 135 calories to her daily caloric intake since she was used to drinking three glasses of milk a day. If she was the kind of person who only drank milk once in a while, those extra calories are not a big deal but since she drinks milk every day like I do, they will eventually add up into unwanted pounds.

The ending to this story is that I drank the milk, found it to be utterly delicious, and sighed, "How I wish my 80-calorie, 0-percent fat milk tasted like this."

* * *

Correction for last week's column "A Reader's Eye-Opening Fitness Experience." The sentence "The loss of half a pound of muscle can make you gain 3-5 pounds a year (30-50 calories multiplied by 365 days in a year; 1 pound of fat equals 3,500 calories)..." should have read "The loss of half a pound of muscle can make you gain 1½-2½ pounds a year (15-25 calories multiplied by 365 days in a year; 1 pound of fat equals 3,500 calories)..."

* * *

The Association of Fitness Professionals of the Philippines (AFPP) will hold its Provincial Fit Tours in the following areas: Cebu, April 12-14 (call Veronica Enriquez at 032-234 1643 or e-mail fitadcbu@mozcom.com) and Cagayan de Oro, April 24-26 (call Julie Ang at [088] 857-5416 or e-mail Shirley Quejada at outfit@consultant.www.ph). The tour includes a two-day Basic Instructor Course and a one-day Fitness Workshop.

A fitness seminar will be held April 20 at the Bahay ng Alumni, UP Diliman, QC. Topics will include Yogilates, Aerobics for Kids, Thyroid Problems and Exercise, Sports Training for Basketball Players. Call Doris Rivera at 850-7647.

Visit www.tinajuanfitness.com for past articles and exercises

Common sense and brain care

"TAKE care of your brain."

Has anyone ever told you that? Think again. You are invariably admonished, "Take care of your heart, your lungs, your bones, etc." But what about your brain, which controls and coordinates all your activities?

Dr. Manuel M. Mariano, codirector for Neurosurgery, Institute for Neurosciences, chief of neurosurgery and stereotactic radiosurgery unit at St. Luke's Medical Center, and president of the Academy of Filipino Neurosurgeons Inc., says that a change of lifestyle, more specifically of personal behavior and character, is necessary in taking care of one's brain.

The primary cause of brain problems, according to the doctor, is a stroke, the interruption of blood supply to the brain, with the resultant impairment of body functions controlled by the damaged area of the brain. So it boils down to being aware of what improves and maintains optimum body health: proper diet, exercise, no smoking, no carcinogenic elements and pollutants, proper rest, manageable stress.

Then there is attitude. The Filipino, observes Mariano, tends to be reckless and undisciplined. "People don't realize it," he says, "but all these are part of taking care of your brain. You should avoid occasions or accidents, where you may injure either your head or that of others.

"We don't even give a thought that shaking a baby may injure his brain, or even prove fatal, because his neck cannot yet support his head," Mariano continues. "When we are angry, we hit the other person's head or even our child's. Any form of physical abuse, of course, is bad, but when done to the head, it causes trauma. When you analyze it, it's really all quite simple. Avoid violence. Think first!"

So what else, besides physical trauma, causes brain problems? Vascular diseases, tumors and genes. But Mariano is hopeful that keyhole neurosurgery technology will be a great help to those suffering from brain ailments. Mariano says that it' s clearly the technology a poor country like the Philippines needs.

"With fewer or no complications, a doctor takes only two hours to treat a common brain ailment like aneurysm (bulging of the wall of an artery weakened by disease or injury) instead of eight. So he can treat four patients a day instead of just one. The patient also stays in the hospital for five days, instead of the usual two weeks. He may not be cured of a primary illness if any, but at least he will not be paralyzed or die faster from his brain ailment. He will not be disfigured either by a large scar," Mariano explains.

Today, St. Luke's Medical Center is in the forefront of brain surgery in the Philippines, with Mariano playing an important role in its development. "Our mission in life is to make neurosurgery in this country safer. I think that's the main point of keyhole surgery: to do the least damage to one's brain. You avoid complications and you prevent adding problems to the original one."

Astonishing effects of natural medicine

CANCER cured or arrested. Tumors eradicated or shrunk. Sex life revived and enhanced. Senior citizens rejuvenated. Cardiac patients leading active lives. Bed-ridden individuals enjoying ballroom dancing. Former paralytics driving cars and globetrotting. Diabetics restored to normal health.

Are these part of a religious or charismatic healing extravaganza? No. This is a scientific and natural healing process propagated by a medical doctor who has been practicing medicine for 53 years. According to Dr. Miguel "Resty" Cornejo, the secret lies in the combination of high-tech modern medicine and natural medication.

Cornejo, who specializes in cardiology, says that good circulation is the foundation of good health.

Natural medicines and drugs, on the other hand, enhance and stimulate body systems. Modern and high-tech medicines help make the self-healing properties of the body function more efficiently. It is this synergy that produces the most astonishing cures.

Natural medicine is also endorsed by Dr. Ludgerio D. Torres, Philippine Heart Center director. Torres has also incorporated the use of natural medicine in his practice, which involves people with heart and heart-related problems, like stroke and diabetes.

According to Cornejo, an example of natural medicine is the vitamins we get from pure orange juice. The more natural the source, the more easily it is absorbed by the body with no side effects.

Cornejo prescribes aloe vera-based bee propolis, Hawthorn crataegus, ginkgo biloba, arctic sea and garlic-thyme medication. Ginkgo and Hawthorn preparations are the top-selling herbs in the United States and Europe, while the other natural medicines have been used for centuries in the Orient and Europe. He said that these natural medicines acted as detoxifiers, catalysts and deep-penetrating cleansing agents. Cornejo added that aloe vera-based preparations were especially effective as antibacterial, antifungal, anti-inflammatory, antiviral, antipyretic agents loaded with vitamins, minerals, amino acids, enzymes and other health-giving and healing elements.

Another medication he prescribes is Pancreanexin, a medicine derived from animal glands that contains a protein-free extract from the pancreas and hearts of healthy animals. It improves arteriocapillary irrigation and develops collateral circulation.

Pancreanexin treats coronary insufficiency, deficient cerebral circulation due to spasm, coronary thrombosis and inflammation of the arteries.

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What happens after a sudden death?

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

NO matter how much modern science and western religions try to deny that spirits of the dead can come back to contact the living, the fact is, many people all over the world have seen or at least felt the presence of their dead relatives very vividly. They could not all be suffering from mental delusions, could they?

And the fact that psychics and clairvoyants can actually see and talk to the dead certainly puts such a stubborn denial on shaky grounds, indeed.

As a general rule, I am against contacting the spirit of the dead, especially if there is no sign or manifestation that the spirit wants to communicate with the living. If we do, we are only disturbing the dead, and that's neither good nor polite. Only when there are clear signs that the spirit wants to convey something important to the living should communication be made.

Recently, a Filipino lady who is married to a foreign Asian national approached me because her late husband, who died six or seven months ago, had been manifesting himself in her dreams, in pictures and even on the telephone. After his death, she received a phone call from him. And he showed his profile as a shadow on the wall in a picture taken during a Mass held for his soul. The wife wanted to talk to her husband to find out the real cause of his death and other personal matters. We succeeded in getting the couple to talk and hug each other for the last time through the help of a medium who even spoke in the language of the deceased.

What happens to the soul of a person who dies suddenly, such as in the case of suicide or accident?

The world-famous psychic and medium James Van Praagh ("Talking to Heaven") says in his latest book "Reaching Heaven," that a person who commits suicide learns he cannot die. "Anyone who forces himself to leave the body prematurely," says Praagh, "will find that, although he can destroy his body, he cannot destroy his soul. The spirit self remains very much alive."

I remember the case of a suicide victim I read in a book many years ago. The man started slashing his wrist with a sharp knife. He kept repeating this action over and over again and wondered why he could not die. He did not realize his body was already dead. A clairvoyant who walked into the room saw the physical body of the man lying on the floor, but his spirit still continued slashing his wrist!

"Once a spirit understands what he has done," continues Praagh, "it is usually filled with a sense of remorse and becomes depressed... If such a soul is willing, spiritual teachers and healers are ready to assist in any way to bring it peace of mind and well being."

What about people who die of a violent death, or are victims of murder or natural disasters?

According to Praagh, in such a case, "the spirit is forced out of the body so quickly that it barely realizes what has occurred. A spirit feels no physical pain from this kind of death."

In his many experiences of talking to spirits of the dead, Praagh says he has never encountered a spirit who said it felt pain when going through a car crash, or felt the crash of a well during an earthquake.

"Depending on the particular passing," says Praagh, "a person might lose consciousness, or have a spontaneous awareness that he is standing outside of his body and is looking down at his lifeless form. He is still very much alive and thinks he is a physical being until the realization sinks in that he is not."

The newly departed tries to speak to the people around him and becomes disconcerted and confused when they do not answer back and completely ignore him. For victims of sudden death, their refusal to accept their changed status and their belief that they are still alive create the phenomenon of haunting and poltergeist activities in a place. Solution: Somebody should tell them the real score and make them understand they are no longer among the living and that it is better for them to go to the light where peace and quiet awaits them, usually accompanied by dead relatives or some benign spirits and guides.

Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St. Greenbelt, Makati City. E-mail jlicauco@geocities.com. Visit j.licauco.tripod.com. Listen to my dzMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.

Take Charge Doc!

Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.

MEDICard

Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures, which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services? Get your information straight from MEDICard's Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA every Tuesday.

FAQs (frequently asked questions)

Are dermatological treatments part of my HMO program with MEDICard?

Yes they are. Dermatological treatments and consultations are covered services under our standard HMO program. These medical availments are limited to those that are **NOT** for aesthetic purposes such as skin allergies or hypersensitivity reaction to food, drugs, soap etc. Thus, electrocautery or chemical treatment for skin tags, keloids, warts, scars, etc. on the face or other exposed areas of the body are not covered unless otherwise these conditions pose a functional impairment or disability on the member. (e.g. inability to open mouth properly due to keloid formation or pain).

Meet your MEDICard Team

Internist **Dr. Gerald M. Luzano** finished his degree in Medicine from the University of Sto. Tomas and earned his residency training for his specialization at the AFP Medical Center. He then later pursued further training under the UST Hospital for his subspecialization in Pulmonary Medicine. Doc Gerald is now based at the World CITI Medical Center, the former QCMC and has been rendering service to MEDICard members since his accreditation in 2000. He is a Diplomate and Fellow to the Philippine College of Physicians and the Philippine College of Chest Physicians. Visit him for your consultation needs. Dr. Gerald M. Luzano holds clinic at room 217 of the World CITI Medical Center, from Mondays to Saturdays from 4 in the afternoon to 7 in the evening.

MEDICard's Medical Coordinator at St. Peter's Family Clinic in Angono, Rizal is **Dr. Carlos C. Zapatos.** *"Doctor Z."* finished Medicine at UERM-MMC in 1973 and specializes in Family Medicine. He went abroad for his Master's Degree in Public Health and his Fellowship training for his specialization at the University of Miami, School of Medicine. Doc Carlos has been in the practice of his profession for 27 years and a part of MEDICard's Medical Service Team for three. He is a Fellow to the Philippine Academy of Family Physicians, Philippine Society of Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology and the Philippine College of Pharmaceutical Medicine. Most of his free time is spent with his wife Edna and their four children and on his love for socio-civic projects as exemplified by his being the past Grand Knight for Knights of Columbus and the past President of the Angono Jaycees. Visit Dr. Zapatos for your consultation needs. Drop by the coordinator's clinic from Mondays to Fridays, 8AM to 5 PM.

With the goal of meeting the demands of our increasing number of members, effective last March 08, MEDICard installed its newly upgraded telephone system and NEW TRUNK LINE NUMBER:

840-2020

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For feedback on availment of our services, e-mail us at feedback@medicardphils.com.

For inquiries on individual or family membership, dial 840-2020 local 2017 and look for Ms. Joy Mendiola. For group or corporate membership, dial local 2049 and look for a membership consultant.

TEXT MEDICard for your queries: 0917-7518365 (Globe) or 0919-2476240 (Smart). Please don't forget to include your complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach you. Log on to www.medicardphils.com.

MEDICard is the first and only HMO in the Philippines and the whole Asian region to be ISO 9002 certified.

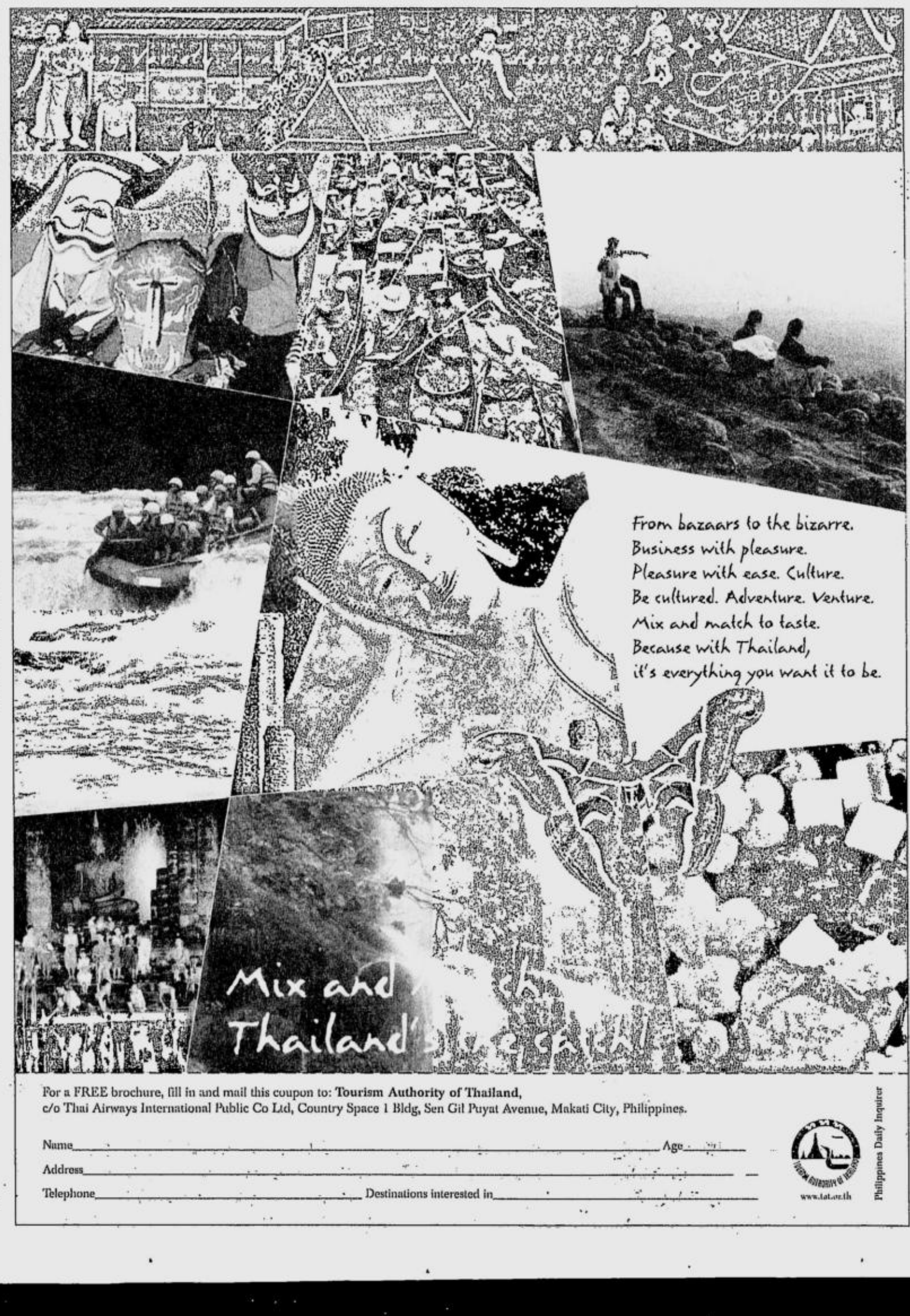
ISO 9002

UP STUDES ROCK AND BOWL

Members of the UP Junior Philippine Institute of Accountants capped their 43rd anniversary celebration rocking and bowling at the SM Bowling Center in North Edsa. Almost 200 JPIA members joined 143 JPIA (I Love JPIA)—trying out the lanes and tables, playing arcade games and enjoying the music of two of the country's hottest bands, Imago and Mojofly.

SHOOT THAT BALL

Win cool prizes by joining the Grandslam Shootout Competition, which will be held at the newly opened Grandslam Shootout located at Storyland SM Southmall, SM City Fairview and SM City Manila. To qualify, visit the nearest Grandslam Shootout and play the 3-Point Shootout and Free Throw Master, or join the Stop and Shoot Elimination as a team. There will be weekly and monthly competitions, with the monthly finalists burning the hoops in the grand finals on Aug. 30. Prizes include P5,000 in cash, Funtasy passes from Storyland and a trophy. Girls can also cool the courts in the Ladies Can Play 2 promo where they can play two games for the pace of one and get a chance to win exciting prizes. Promo is ongoing until April 20. Photo shows Samboy Lim and PBL's Tino Pinat with Mayette Cagulada, Susie Bambido, Julie Amos and Tetet Enriquez of the Philippine Women National Team during the launch of Grandslam Shootout at SM City Manila.



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Philippines Daily Inquirer

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   - You can add clip art, circles, rectangles, lines and text by clicking Options then pressing Insert.
2. Or edit an existing Picture Message:
   - Choose a picture or a saved Picture Message from the phone's memory.
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FBI, DOJ see Libya link to terrorist money trail STORY ON PAGE A2

Yorac on Swiss edict: 'It's not yet in force'

By Donna S. Cueto

THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government has nine days from today to act before the lifting of the freeze on the Swiss bank accounts of three alleged Marcos cronies actually takes effect.

"It's not yet in force. It's like an administrative judgment that is on

YORAC/A17

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

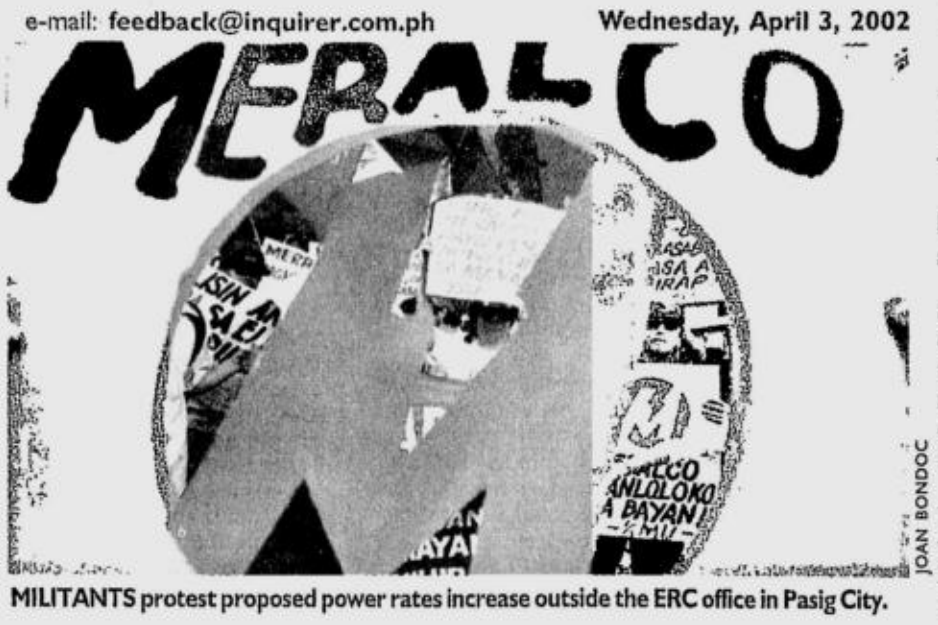
Doc in sex case free despite conviction

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Despite the Supreme Court's upholding of his conviction for sexual harassment and sentence of six months imprisonment, former city health officer Dr. Rico Jacutin remains a free man.

His lawyer, Manuel Singson of the Manila-based Singson and Valdez Law Offices, said they were still awaiting a copy of the

DOC/A17

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Wednesday, April 3, 2002 ★ 54 pages / 5 sections / vol.17 / no. 114 P15 website: www.inq7.net



JOAN BONDOC

MILITANTS protest proposed power rates increase outside the ERC office in Pasig City.

Meralco blinks, seeks lower rate hike

By Ronnel W. Domingo and Juliet L. Javellana

SENSING that the public would not accept a big power rate increase at this time, Manila Electric Co. yesterday submitted a revised proposal to the Energy Regulatory Commission tempering the increase.

In a presentation before the ERC, Meralco said consumers using 100 kilowatt-hours a month would be charged P624.50, an increase of 10.6 percent from their current bill of P564.86.

In the petition it submitted on Dec. 26, 2001, Meralco said consumers using 100 kwh a month would be charged 25.4 percent more.

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan had earlier accused Meralco of seeking to raise its rates by as much as 116 percent.

In the House of Representatives, Iloilo Rep. Raul Gonzalez, deputy speaker for the Visayas, has filed a resolution calling for a probe of Meralco's "unjustified" rate hike.

Gonzalez noted that many sectors were complaining that the power rate hike would wreak havoc on low-income consumers.

While Meralco is a business entitled to profits, it is also a business clothed with public interest, according to Gonzalez. He said that it was for this reason that Meralco should "modulate" its profit taking.

"The consuming public has practically no control over how much profit it wants to make and where it will funnel the profits it makes year after year after year," Gonzalez said.

MERALCO/A17

Israel shells Ramallah; Sharon seeks Arafat exile

RAMALLAH, West Bank—Israeli tanks and helicopter gunships shelled a heavily fortified Palestinian security compound near this West Bank town on Tuesday to flush out top fugitives, setting ablaze two buildings and wounding at least 20 people trapped inside.

Ramallah, the commercial and administrative center of the West Bank, remained under tight Israeli control, and Israeli tanks maintained their siege around Yasser Arafat's office where the Palestinian leader has been confined.

In Jerusalem, however, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said he had proposed that Arafat be flown into exile by European diplomats.

In the biblical town of Bethlehem, an Israeli helicopter gunship hovering over Manger Square exchanged fire with Palestinian gunmen near the Church of the Nativity, built over Jesus'

ISRAEL/A17

Congress wants to revive Cha-cha

US Navy Adm. Stan Bozin salutes after placing flowers at the tomb of his uncle at the American Cemetery in Fort Bonifacio, Makati City, during memorial rites marking the 60th anniversary of the Battle of Bataan. Witnessing the ceremony are Sen. Ted Stevens of Alaska, Sen. Daniel Inouye of Hawaii and US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone. AP/BULLIT MARQUEZ

US vets back to Bataan after 60 years

IT WAS a hellish 100-km forced march in blistering heat with no food or water. Blood seeping from the tops of his boots, Duke Fullerton trudged through the POW camp gates, vowing not to let his Japanese captors break his spirit.

He kept that promise, but his return to the Philippines six decades later is bittersweet.

Fullerton, 88, yesterday joined 13 other American survivors to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the fall of Bataan on April 9, 1942, and the ensuing ordeal called the "Death March."

A color guard held up the Philippine and American flags side by side during the hour-long ceremony at the American Cemetery in Fort Bonifacio, where rows of white crosses marked some of the American and Filipino lives lost during World War II.

Thanking the survivors for their defense of freedom, US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone said the United States and the Philippines "once again stand shoulder to shoulder in that same cause."

"This time the enemy is not a racist, militarist, aggressor empire, but inter

US/A17

RP: 'We're neutral, we're friends to both'

By Norman Bordadora and Dona Pazzibugan

"WE'RE neutral. We're friends to both."

Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. yesterday described the Philippine position regarding Israel's siege of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's headquarters in Ramallah in diplomatically correct terms, but presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao issued a statement that rebuffed the Israeli ambassador's version of events.

Tiglao said the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was "more complicated" than being merely "a war against terrorists," as Israeli envoy Irit Ben-Abba told the Department of Foreign Affairs the

RP/A17

Lawmakers to consult barangay assemblies

By Juliet L. Javellana

SLOWLY but surely, the House of Representatives is pushing for amendments to the 1987 Constitution aimed mainly at changing the form of government.

The House committee on constitutional amendments has approved a measure calling for the convening of barangay assemblies nationwide on May 6 to serve as a forum to discuss proposals to amend the Constitution. There are 41,940 barangays in the country.

As proposed, the people would be asked whether they see a need to amend the Charter. If they favored Charter change, they would be asked about the specific amendments that they wanted and the manner by which the Charter would be amended.

Results of the consultations will be submitted to the House and the Senate.

No less than Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. has espoused Charter change, saying he favors a shift to a parliamentary form of government. He is calling a national political summit on the first week of May to discuss Charter change and other issues.

In House Resolution No. 8, 35 members of the committee on constitutional amendments are asking the Department of Interior and Local Government to

CONGRESS/A4

Fresh from a holiday? Prepare for another one

By Carlito Pablo

STILL on holiday mode? You've got another three-day treat coming up.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has declared April 8, a Monday, as a non-working holiday in place of April 9, which is traditionally observed as "Araw ng Kagitingan" and which falls on a Tuesday this year.

This means that all you hedonists out there have all the time to hit the road again—three straight days from Saturday to Monday—and, in the course of it, spend more money and invigorate the domestic market.

Or at least that's what the government hopes to achieve in pushing its so-called "holiday economics."

FRESH/A4

'Poet of Philippine music' dies

By Lito B. Zulueta and Pablo A. Tariman

EVEN in death, supreme lyricist Levi Celerio and supreme musician Lucio D. San Pedro, the duo behind the classic Tagalog lullaby "Sa Ugoy ng Duyan" (As the Hammock Sways), seemed to play in perfect tandem.

Celerio died yesterday at 3:34 p.m. at the Delgado Hospital in Quezon City, two days after San Pedro's death. The cause of death was multi-organ failure caused by pneumonia. He was less than a month shy of his 92nd birthday.

Like San Pedro, Celerio was a National Artist, outdoing the maestro a bit by being named so for both music and literature. The addition was seen as a concession to musical purists who had frowned on naming a lyricist to the National Artists pantheon.

POET/A17

LEVI Celerio's uncanny ability to play music on a leaf landed him in the "Guinness Book of World Records." FILE PHOTO

Second FRONT PAGE

TRACING TERRORIST FUNDS

Libya linked to money trail

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE JUSTICE department and the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation are looking into the possible involvement of Libya in the Sipadan crisis and subsequent hostage-taking incidents in Palawan and Mindanao, Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida said yesterday.

This developed as the Department of Justice began the work of establishing the paper trail of the ransom money that was paid to the Abu Sayyaf bandit group during the Sipadan hostage crisis in 2000.

Press Secretary Rigoberto Tiglao said the government was checking out an FBI report that the Abu Sayyaf had funneled to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida international terrorist network part of the ransom money it collected for the Sipadan hostages.

He said the FBI had obtained the evidence "from different countries."

Millions of dollars were paid to the bandit group in exchange for the release of most of the 21 hostages who were taken from the Sipadan resort-island of Malaysia in April 2000.

The other day Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said the FBI had alerted the government to Abu Sayyaf ransom money being channeled to Bin Laden.

Planeful of dollars

Calida confirmed suspicions that the Libyan government may have used the Sipadan crisis as a cover for delivering money to the Abu Sayyaf.

"(Libya) brought a plane full of US dollars into the country before the end of the Sipadan crisis. Where's the money now?" asked Calida.

"The ASG was used as a conduit" for money intended for Bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network, Calida said.

He said the Sipadan incident may have been used as a ruse as sending money through the banks or other financial institutions would have alerted US officials.

Calida, however, refused to categorically accuse Libya of being a supporter of Bin Laden.

He said suspicions about Libya's motive for mediating for the release of the Westerners came up during an anti-terrorism seminar at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia, from March 11 to 22.

Calida headed the Philippine delegation composed of justice department officials and prosecutors to the seminar which tackled the financial underpinnings of terrorism.

Said Calida: "We analyzed the situation... and thought that it was possible that the (kidnapping incidents were a) way to raise funds to support terrorist activities."

Fund raising ruse

He said this suspicion was bolstered when Libya again offered to intercede for the release of the US missionaries Grace and Martin Burnham being held by the Abu Sayyaf.

But Calida could not say how much money was given to the bandit group.

"I'm not in a position to comment on that," he said.

The INQUIRER reported on Sept. 10, 2000 that the Abu Sayyaf freed its four Europeans hostages reportedly after at least $4 million in ransom was paid by Libya.

The hostages were German Marc Wallert, Frenchman Stephane Loisy, and Finns Risto Vahanen and Seppo Fraenti.

Their release ended the almost five-month captivity of the original group of 21 Westerners and Asians seized in Sipadan in April 2000.

French journalists Jean-Jacques le Garrec and Roland Madura were released shortly after.

It was the Gadhafi Foundation, through Libyan envoy Rajab Azzarouq, which bankrolled the release of most of the Sipadan hostages. It even sent a private plane to the country supposedly to pick up the last batch of Europeans.

But participants in the anti-terrorism seminar now believe that the private plane was used to transport money to Bin Laden through the Abu Sayyaf, said Calida.

Banks probed

Calida said the justice department was already investigating several banks in Sulu, Zamboanga and Basilan provinces to see if their officials could be charged with money laundering.

He did not name the banks but admitted that some rural banks had been used as depositories for the ransom money.

"During the Sipadan crisis, the rate of deposits suddenly increased in these banks," he said. ***With a report from Carlito Pablo***

Army chief retires, warns of discontent

By Martin Marfil

DISCONTENT is again brewing in the military in the wake of reports that the next Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff would be a general whose term would be extended.

Lt. Gen. Jaime de los Santos, commanding general of the Philippine Army, aired this warning yesterday shortly after he retired from service.

"It will not be a popular decision. It will create disenchantment. There will be low morale..." De los Santos told reporters.

De los Santos had been considered as one of those qualified to take the place of AFP chief Gen. Diomedio Villanueva once he retires on May 20.

But he retired yesterday without achieving this.

The Army witnessed a change of command when De Los Santos bowed out and relinquished his post to Maj. Gen. Dionisio R. Santiago, former commander of the AFP's Visayas Command.

As the Army's 42nd commanding general, De los Santos introduced a command philosophy which emphasized human resource development, unit administration through information technology, improvement of firepower and communication, and training.

A member of PMA class of 1969, he was named distinguished alumnus of the UP College of Business Administration last year and was conferred the Cavalier Award for command and administration this year.

He was the first Filipino and Asean national to become commander of the peacekeeping force of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor. After East Timor, he became commander of the AFPs Visayas Command and then deputy chief of staff of the AFP.

Santiago is a member of PMA class of 1970. Through his military career, he gained recognition in the AFP's intelligence service.

Attending yesterday's command turnover were Villanueva, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, the AFP and Army top brass and families of the outgoing and incoming Army chiefs.

The others who are said to be in the running for the top AFP post are deputy chief of staff Lt. Gen. Narciso Abaya, Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor, Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, Navy Flag-Officer-in-Command Victorino Hingco and vice chief of staff Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling.

Cimatu appears to have the inside track after President Macapagal-Arroyo reportedly hinted that he would be extended for six months once he takes over as AFP chief.

According to De los Santos, he had consulted numerous military officers and they have told him that it would be an affront to those in the service as there are "many good leaders" in the military if a general is extended.

"They do not favor extension... They are the ones telling me. I do not ask them..." he added.

After fighting cuts, HK maids now resist pay hike

HONG KONG—Foreign domestic workers in Hong Kong expressed concern on Tuesday that a proposal to boost their minimum wage could threaten their jobs by making them too expensive to employ.

A spokesperson for an organization representing the city's substantial population of foreign helpers says the proposal—reportedly to boost salaries substantially from HK$3,670 to HK$5,000 ($471 to $640)—would price them out of the market. Only last January, the foreign domestic workers, most of them Filipinos, fought attempts to cut their minimum wage.

"If the monthly wage goes up to $5,000, we will become a luxury, as most of the middle income employers in Hong Kong could not afford to hire foreign domestic helpers any more," said Connie Bragas-Regalado, spokesperson for the Asian Migrants' Co-ordinating Body.

Some 228,000 people are officially out of work in Hong Kong, putting the unemployment rate at a record high of 6.8 percent, and the rate is expected to rise further.

However, Regalado contended that by raising salaries, the Hong Kong government "will not solve the unemployment problem." Her group is an alliance of workers' groups from the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand and Nepal.

Regalado said a government move to train 15,000 local Chinese domestic helpers annually to help cut unemployment in Hong Kong could also pose a threat to foreign domestic helpers.

Currently, there are some 30,000 local domestic helpers, who mostly work part-time and are not required to live with their employers, unlike foreign helpers most of whom live where they work.

Regalado said her group was closely monitoring developments and added it would protest any move that would disadvantage foreign domestic helpers in Hong Kong. **AFP**

Cariñgal; 66

DOMINADOR Arias Cariñgal of Ibaan, Batangas, died yesterday at the Makati Medical Center. He was 66.

He is survived by his wife, Gracia Zuño Caringal; children Omar and Emma, Virna and Jacob Divino; Don, Leah, James, Danilo and Isel; and grandson Quilo. The body lies at the St. Jerome Church in Alabang Town Center. Interment will be announced later.

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Joe de V offers deal for Alvarez OK

By Carlito Pablo

THE RULING Lakas-NUCD is using its political influence to rush the confirmation before the congressional Commission on Appointments of party secretary general Heherson Alvarez as environment secretary.

Administration sources said Speaker Jose de Venecia, the Lakas president, has stepped in by offering a "win-win formula" that would remove a major stumbling block to Alvarez's confirmation.

A former Department of Environment and Natural Resources official, Peter Anthony Abaya, who was removed from his post by Alvarez, has filed a formal opposition to Alvarez's confirmation.

Abaya is a son of Cavite Rep. Plaridel Abaya.

While the LP to which the senior Abaya belongs has one vote in the CA, Lakas can summon the numbers and push through Alvarez's confirmation.

"De Venecia's formula is (to allow) Abaya's appointment as DENR assistant secretary to push through in exchange for the withdrawal of his opposition," a source said.

"Alvarez and Abaya will work together at the DENR until such time that another post is made available for Abaya," the source said.

Abaya, who has master's degrees in civil and environmental engineering from New York's Cornell University, was director of the Environmental Bureau until his removal.

De Venecia reportedly started sounding out the legislators on his compromise formula before Congress went on a Lenten break. Congress will resume sessions on April 15.

President Macapagal-Arroyo reappointed Alvarez after he failed to secure a confirmation before Congress went on recess.

Another source said that Alvarez's failing to get a confirmation would have significant political implications as "this would reflect on Lakas as the ruling party in the country."

"It does not augur well for the standing of Lakas if its own secretary general cannot pass before the CA," the source said.

"It is not surprising that Speaker De Venecia himself is taking a hand in this matter," the source added.

Alvarez accused Abaya of issuing clearances for the importation of ozone depleting substances (ODS) in 2000 allegedly in excess of allowable volumes under the law and under the country's commitment to international conventions.

Abaya countered that Alvarez allegedly "concocted" the charges, thus reflecting unfavorably on his integrity as a public official.

Tiglao braces for CA gauntlet

NEWLY appointed Press Secretary Rigoberto Tiglao yesterday said he would continue to "just tell it like it is" even as his confirmation is going through the congressional Commission on Appointments wringer.

Tiglao has crossed swords with a number of opposition legislators, particularly those identified with jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada and they could give him a rough time at the CA.

"I have been objective. Not tame, not wild," Tiglao said, describing his style as presidential spokesperson.

A source said that Malacañang's strategy would be to ask other Cabinet members to take on a more active role in speaking for the administration so as to draw fire away from Tiglao while the CA review is going on.

"Less talk, less mistake" was how the source summed up the strategy.

This means Tiglao would not have the sole responsibility for defending the administration, the Palace source said.

"Other Cabinet members will have to speak out, especially on matters directly involving their departments," the source added.

Tiglao himself confirmed this during his regular press briefing yesterday after the Cabinet's weekly meeting.

"The President is encouraging all Cabinet members to make themselves available for phone interviews," he said.

But he said that he himself would be available to the media "as much as I can."

Tiglao said Malacañang has yet to decide on whether to appoint a deputy spokesperson to pitch in for him while he is going through the confirmation hearings. ***Carlito Pablo***

Malang wife dies; 72

MARIA "Mary" San Pedro Santos, wife of prominent Filipino artist Mauro Malang Santos, died yesterday. She was 72.

Until her death, Santos was managing Marisan Mercantile Inc., a family-owned business enterprise.

She is survived by her husband, Malang; children Steve and Liza, Simon and Gloria, Sarah and Jimmy, and Soler and Mona; and grandchildren Sharon, Shirley, Sarji, Sheryll, Selene, Badge, Ann, Marc, Luis, Ina, Michael and Isabel.

Her body lies at the Faith Chapel of the Arlington Memorial Chapels on G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Friday, April 5, at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City, after an 8 a.m. memorial service at Arlington.

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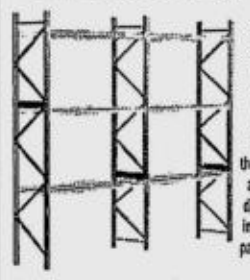

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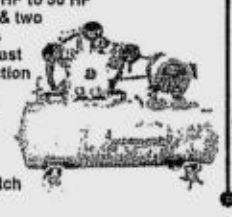

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From page A1

convene the barangay assemblies in order to determine the stand of the people on proposals to amend the Constitution.

The resolution was principally authored by Iloilo Rep. Raul Gonzalez, Deputy Speaker for the Visayas; Samar Rep. Antonio Eduardo Nachura, chair of the committee; and Baguio City Rep. Mauricio Domogan, vice chair of the committee.

The committee approved the resolution last month and submitted Committee Report No. 307 to the plenary for approval.

Nachura told the INQUIRER that House members would be asked to help conduct the consultations through the barangay assemblies. He said the committee would submit specific proposals to facilitate discussions at the assemblies.

Plebiscite in 2004

Nachura said the committee's target was for the holding of a plebiscite on the proposed constitutional amendments simultaneously with the 2004 national elections. If the people ratified a change in the form of government, the shift would not be implemented soon.

The elected president in 2004 has the "vested right to finish her term" of six years before the government shifts to a new form, according to Nachura. He laughed and noted that he referred to the elected president as a she, apparently President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Nachura said the administration in 2004 would serve as the "transition government," which is expected to undertake the necessary preparations for a new form of government.

For a plebiscite to be held in 2004, the process of amending the Charter must take place not later than next year, according to Nachura.

He said this was possible if the approved mode of amending the Charter would be through a constituent assembly, which requires converting the Senate and the House into a body to propose amendments.

The Constitution prescribes two other modes—constitutional convention, which is composed of members elected for this purpose and people's initiative, which requires a specific number of signatures from every congressional district.

Nachura was of the opinion that a constituent assembly would be the faster, less costly mode.

But sectors opposed to past attempts to amend the Charter rejected the convening of a constituent assembly on the grounds that the lawmakers would introduce self-serving amendments such as extending their term.

Cha-cha and Concord

During the term of President Fidel Ramos, his administration pushed for Charter change, then called Cha-cha, aimed at lifting the term limits of elective officials. His administration dropped Cha-cha after the Supreme Court ruled that a people's initiative to amend the Charter through the gathering of signatures was not possible because there was no enabling law.

Former President Joseph Estrada also pushed for Charter change, which he called Concord, or Constitutional Correction for Development. Estrada sought to allow foreigners to own land, public utilities and media outfits. He dropped Concord because of strong opposition from the Catholic Church and other sectors.

Nachura said a constitutional convention would set back the 2004 timetable because it would require a longer period starting with electing the members.

For purposes of meeting the timetable, Nachura's committee plans to finish all public consultations within the year.

It has so far conducted public consultations in Baguio, Iloilo and Bacolod cities.

Results of a survey that the committee had conducted showed that most House members favored amending the Constitution.

105 back amendments

Though only 112 of the 212 House members responded to the committee questionnaire, an overwhelming 105 said "yes" to amending the Charter. Only seven were against.

Majority of House members (61) want a parliamentary form of government while 28 espouse a federal system. Only 24 support the presidential form of government.

Sixty-five members of the House favor a unicameral legislature while 15 want the existing bicameral system. Fifty want senators elected by region.

Most of the legislators want themselves to undertake the job of amending the Constitution through a constituent assembly. A total of 75 members of the House favor a constituent assembly while 57 prefer to elect delegates to a constitutional convention.

Nachura explained that while the committee originally approved May 6 as the date for the barangay assemblies, this might be pushed back because of the incoming barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections on July 15.

"We might have a problem with May 6 because of the barangay elections. We might be accused of conducting a partisan activity," Nachura said in a phone interview.

Nachura said it would be up to the House plenary to decide whether to convene the assemblies on May 6.

But personally, he said, he preferred to have the barangay assembles convened after the July 15 elections when a new set of barangay officials shall have been in place.

Fresh from a holiday? Prepare for another one

From page A1

While official ceremonies commemorating the Fall of Bataan during the Japanese occupation will still be held on Tuesday, that day will be a regular working day for both public and private sectors, according to the President's spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao.

To avoid confusion, read Tiglao's lips: "There's no work on Monday. There'll be ceremonies on Tuesday but it's a working day."

And speaking of holidays, Malacañang wants to make it clear that the four-day workweek earlier ordered by the President for government agencies is "not a holiday but a modification of work hours."

The Palace issued an official statement to this effect to clear the reported confusion on the intent of Administrative Order No. 32, which the President signed last March 18.

"Under the four-day workweek scheme, government employees have the option to report to work from either Monday to Thursday or Tuesday to Friday, provided, however, that they put in 10 hours of work each day, completing the requisite 40-hour workweek," Malacañang said.

AO 32 was issued as part of the government's effort to revitalize domestic tourism and the economy in general. It is also aimed at giving government workers a free day to devote to other concerns, including family matters and personal businesses to augment their incomes.

Malacañang is encouraging the private sector to adopt the four-day workweek but businessmen, particularly manufacturers, say it is not suited for their needs.

Tiglao said at his regular briefing yesterday that AO 32 was very clear and that there should be no cause for confusion.

He said local government units had the option to adopt the scheme.

But government agencies involved in security, safety and emergency services are not covered by the order.

TABANG MINDANAW and its Peace Partners proudly launch

Kawayan alang sa Kalinaw
(Bamboo for Peace)

A symbol for the undying quest for
peace and reconciliation in the Sanctuaries of Peace

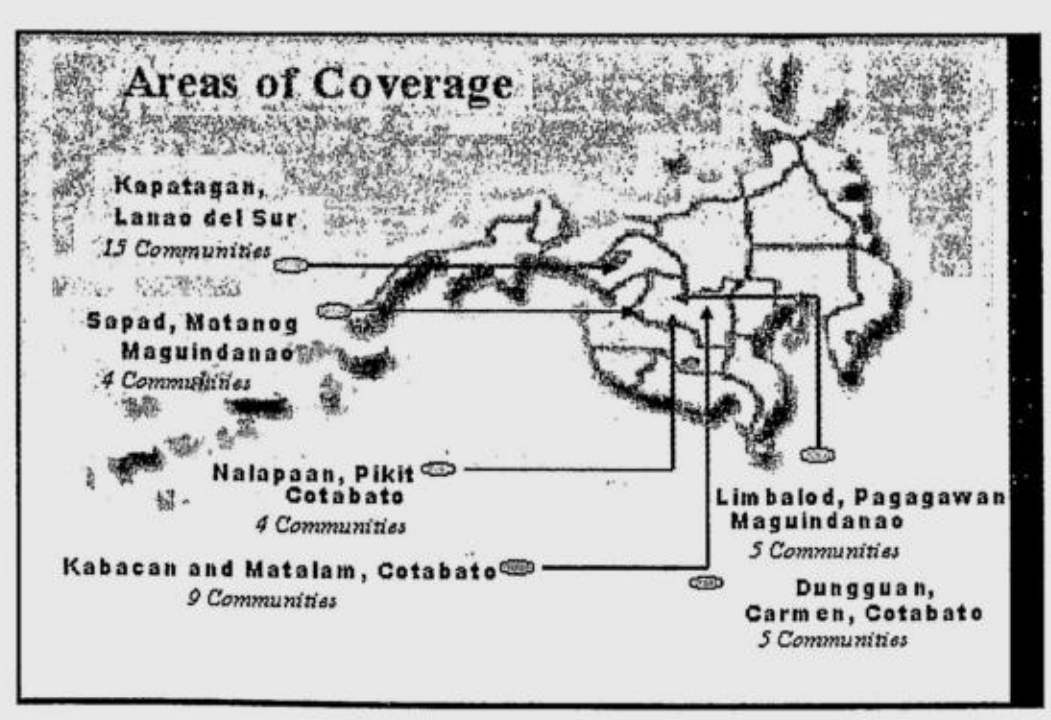
Today, forty-two *Tabang Mindanaw* communities from war torn Maguindanao, Cotabato and Lanao del Sur will take another step to advance their cause for peace and reconciliation. Since the Integrated Return and Rehabilitation Program (IRRP) was launched by *Tabang Mindanaw* in August 2000, over two thousand families have declared their communities as "Sanctuaries of Peace". These community leaders will gather in Sitio Inged, Barangay Ugalingan, Dungguan in Carmen, Cotabato for a ceremonial launching of the *Kawayan alang sa Kalinaw* – Bamboo for Peace. National and local government officials, NGO and INGO support groups, Church partners and representatives from the military and MILF will be present to express support for this undertaking.

These IRRP communities have chosen bamboo as the symbol of their undying quest for peace and reconciliation among the tri-peoples of Mindanao. They see the task of rehabilitating their war torn communities as more than just a development project. They see it as a mission to promote healing, reconciliation and unity between and among Muslims, Christians, *Lumads* and other cultural communities. They see it as a journey of displaced persons who struggle together to rebuild their lives and their communities from the ashes of war. They see it as their commitment and the commitment of many people who continue to help them pursue a genuine and lasting peace in Mindanao.

Why Kawayan for Peace?

Kawayan (bamboo) is an important plant in the lives of ordinary people. *Kawayan* has its many uses beneficial to human activity. Even in folklore, bamboo is a symbol of life and hope, of sturdiness and flexibility. For even amidst raging storms and strong winds, the pliant bamboo will bend but not break. The higher the bamboo reaches the heavens, the lower it is able to bend and kiss the earth.

But the bamboo, in the indigenous culture, also has a negative connotation. As it possesses a long life span and regenerates rapidly, warring groups also use it to symbolize vengeance and lasting conflict. Therefore, these communities decided to revert this connotation of bamboo as representing war and vengeance to a symbol of peace and reconciliation, beginning with their own "Sanctuaries of Peace" which are respected by all warring factions.



To give hope instead of desperation, to promote life instead of death.

Planting *Kawayan,* therefore, would now mean working for a just, sustainable and lasting peace for all people in the communities. *Kawayan* has now become a new symbol of an undying quest for peace and reconciliation among all peoples of different cultures and faiths.

Tabang Mindanaw and its peace partners are one with these communities in their quest for lasting peace and in supporting community-based initiatives such as this.

TABANG MINDANAW

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SPACE DONATED BY PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Gordon extols 4-day workweek

TOURISM Secretary Richard J. Gordon yesterday extolled the benefits of the four-day government workweek that he has proposed, saying it would foster the work ethic among state employees as it would mean giving the public 10 hours of public service during the week.

"New schedules for government employees will now make available certain public services from as early as 7 a.m. to as late as 7 p.m., depending on the schedules set by particular government agencies," Gordon said in a press statement.

The President issued last week Administrative Order No. 32 mandating a four-day work week of 10 hours a day for government employees until May 31 as part of a general drive to boost domestic tourism.

Gordon said the extra day off would give government employees more time for their families and provide new opportunities for entrepreneurial activities.

He said there would be savings of 20 percent on transportation and food expenses for government employees with a reduction of workdays. He added that the scheme would also ease traffic.

Interior Secretary Jose Lina, meanwhile, clarified that local government units would not be covered by the four-day workweek order even as he appealed to local chief executives to adopt the scheme.

"Nothing prevents the LGUs from adopting the same work scheme... in support of the thrust, programs and policies of the national government," Lina said.

But House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla said he doubted the scheme would "inculcate a culture of hard work and greater productivity" among government employees.

"(It) only inculcates the culture of *bulakbol* (truancy)," Padilla said.

He also said the program would incur more government spending as it would mean longer office hours and higher electric power consumption.

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NEWSBRIEFS

Screening for seminarians

A TOP official of the Catholic Church has proposed that seminarians and those studying for the priesthood be thoroughly checked for tendencies to molest minors. In a statement, Dagupan City Archbishop Oscar Cruz, former president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, said this is the only way the Church can prevent outbreak of scandals involving alleged "pedophile priests."

He also said pedophile priests should be dismissed from the clergy.

"I am worried though that pedophilia might not be detected early in the seminary before ordination to the priesthood," he said. "That is why rigid psychological tests are imperative for seminarians."

Cruz was reacting to reports of US priest being accused and tried in court for molesting minors and engaging in pedophilia. The scandal has prompted Pope John Paul II, in his Holy Week message to priests to condemn the depraved sexual practices and remind priests of their true calling.

New DBP president

THE GOVERNMENT will announce this week the appointment of JP Morgan Chase investment bank head Simon Paterno as president and chief executive of state-owned Development Bank of the Philippines, replacing Remedios Macalincag, who is retiring.

Paterno is expected to assume his post by next week.

Paterno, who was many years country manager for JP Morgan before the bank was absorbed by Chase Manhattan, is seen to have the support of DBP chair Vitaliano Nañagas III. Both of them were based in New York in the 1980s.

Pagcor on a roll

THE PHILIPPINE Amusement and Gaming Corp. is on a roll.

Pagcor announced yesterday that it posted a record-breaking increase of as much as 15 percent from its gaming operations for the first quarter of 2002. Its chairman, Efraim C. Genuino, reported that for January alone, the gaming agency earned a total income of P1.58 billion, up by 20 percent from the same period last year. In February, it earned P1.44 billion, or an increase of 10 percent from last year's P1.31 billion considering February only has 28 days. Unofficial figures for the month of March showed Pagcor's 13 casinos and two slot machine arcades earned P1.4 billion. This, Pagcor said, does not exclude earnings from rentals, interest and bingo operations, which the gaming firm still has to receive from the branches.

Genuino congratulated the corporation's 10,000-strong workforce for Pagcor's phenomenal performance.

"Our efforts and reforms have produced outstanding results. However, we will not rest on our laurels; we will keep on winning to deliver to President Macapagal-Arroyo the much-needed funds to give our less fortunate brothers relief from poverty."

Bus plunges off cliff

PAGADIAN CITY—A passenger bus plunged off a cliff in Josefina, Zamboanga del Sur, around 5:30 p.m. on Monday, but the police and the military gave conflicting reports as to the number of fatalities.

Brig. Gen Angel Atutubo, deputy commander of the Army's 1st Infantry Division based in Labangan, Zamboanga del Sur, said the Mary May bus was from Dipolog City and was bound for Molave when the accident occurred.

It was not immediately known why the bus went off the road while negotiating a curve in Barangay Lipatan, but Atutubo said at least 15 passengers, including a soldier and a nun, were killed.

However, Supt. Samson Ubay-Ubay, Zamboanga del Sur deputy police director, said only five passengers were confirmed dead based on reports reaching the provincial police command. He said among those killed was Pfc. Reynaldo Redillas of the Army's 5th Infantry Battalion based in Josefina and his wife, who has yet to be identified.

Hernan P. dela Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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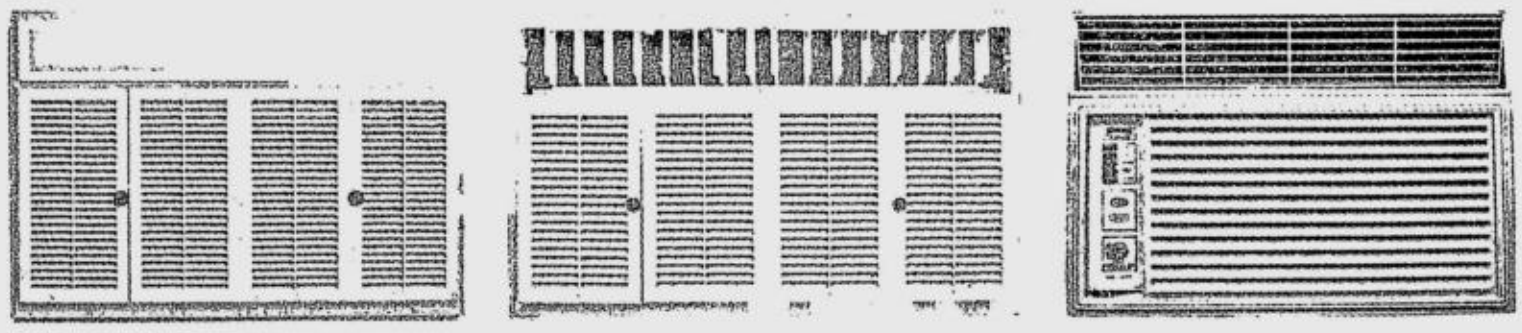

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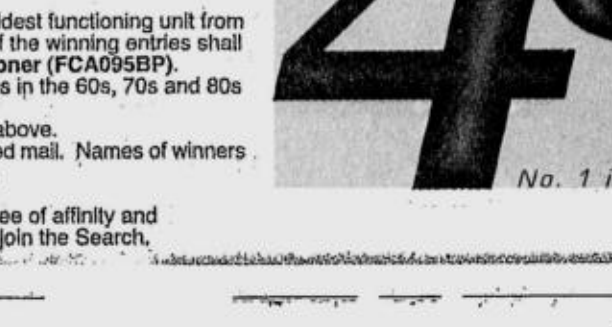

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3. Deadline for submission of entries is **April 30, 2002.**
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5. All Carrier units manufactured in the Philippines in the 60s, 70s and 80s are qualified to enter the Search.
6. Qualified units are not limited to those shown above.
7. Winners shall be notified by phone and registered mail. Names of winners shall be published in print ads in major dailies.
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EUGENIA D. APOSTOL
Founding Chairman

INQUIRER

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OPINION

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Courage

EDITORIAL

ALL she wanted was to start a career. So when Juliet Yee met with her prospective boss, little did she know that she was setting off on what her lawyers would later call "a legal odyssey" and finish it in triumph.

As a young graduate of nursing in December 1995, Yee, who was then 22, approached Dr. Rico Jacutin for a job, in the company of her father and a family friend. Jacutin, the chief city health officer of Cagayan de Oro, told her to come back in the afternoon. Thinking she was going to a job interview, she did and came alone this time. Instead, Jacutin told her they were going bowling and asked her to meet him at another place. Later, he picked her up in his car and that was when he began to make sexual advances.

Right inside the car, Jacutin told Yee to pull down her pants so he could see if she had varicose veins on her legs. Puzzled but apparently unwilling to show any sign of distrust, Yee complied. As soon as she did, Jacutin was all over her, touching her privates and fondling her breasts. She grabbed her bag and bolted out of the car.

Apparently, it was not the first time Jacutin used his position to try to satisfy his lust. Other women would later come out to denounce him for making unwelcome sexual advances. But to spare themselves any embarrassment, they drew a veil over his foul deeds—until Yee came out with her charges and brought Jacutin to court.

The harassment did not end when Yee sued Jacutin for violation of the Anti-Sexual Harassment Act. The city's social elite rallied behind one of its own against the daughter of a policeman. There was talk that Yee was merely out to squeeze some money from the doctor. Her relatives told her she was wasting time and money and advised her to withdraw her charges. And in the unkindest cut of all, a priest asked her how much she wanted for an amicable settlement of the case. "I was devastated by his act," she recalled much later.

Despite all the pressure, the nasty talk and discouraging words, Yee fought Jacutin from the lower courts all the way to the Supreme Court. In November 1999 she tasted her first victory when the Sandiganbayan found Jacutin guilty and sentenced him to a prison term of six months, the maximum term prescribed by the law, and ordered him to pay a fine of P20,000 plus P500,000 in moral and exemplary damages. More than two years later, she won her final victory when the Supreme Court affirmed Jacutin's conviction. (The Court, however, reduced the monetary compensation for moral and exemplary damages to a total of P50,000.)

It was a long, uphill climb to find justice, but Yee exhibited a remarkable determination to see it to the end. With her successful quest, she has opened the door for other women victims to seek redress for similar grievances.

But first they must overcome their own embarrassment and summon the courage to face a public that more often than not winks at sexual harassment as if it were nothing worse than a childish prank. Putting the story out in the open was the hardest thing she had to do, according to Yee. But once it was done, she had more than half the battle won. She said she no longer cared whether she won or lost the case once the story was out in the open. "I couldn't allow Jacutin to continue his sexual assaults," she said.

Tough though it is, telling one's story can be cathartic. Yee said it helped her recover from the traumatic experience. That's another reason victims of sexual harassment and other sexual crimes should not seek solace in silence.

Nonsense

FOREIGN COMMENT

AT A TIME when the West is meant to be pulling together against terrorism, many EU leaders still seem to regard the United States as their chief rival. How else are we to explain their determination to launch a satellite program in competition with America? At the moment, the whole world can tune in to satellite data courtesy of the United States, whose Global Positioning System uses open frequencies.

At a time when most European states are struggling to cut spending, the EU is about to invest in a satellite system that will give it no added value whatever. To Europe's True Believers, however, the money is irrelevant. The point of Galileo, as they see it, is to challenge Uncle Sam's dominance in space. As President Chirac of France has put it, Europe will be doomed to "vassal status" unless it has an independent satellite network of its own. This is by no means the first time that the EU has insisted on reinventing the wheel when there is a cheaper and better American version on offer.

In their own terms, Euro-federalists are perfectly entitled to extend this logic to space. What is harder to understand is why the British government, notionally committed to the Atlantic alliance, is going along with such nonsense. ***The Daily Telegraph (London)***

Cement cartel: boys don't deserve protection

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

PROTECTIONISM has been the bane and downfall of the Philippine economy since the Commonwealth days. Philippine companies have always been protected from competition from other countries. Thus, we had import controls and currency controls that also bred corruption in mega-scale. Filipino businessmen prospered but not the economy or the country. Because it is protected, Philippine business did not learn to be competitive. There was no need to compete because of protectionism. Businessmen were content to rake in the money from captive Filipino consumers, never mind if they can't export their products. Our exports were mainly agricultural products and natural resources.

Because presidents and political leaders were propped up by lobby money from big business, protectionist policies continued—until we were overtaken by globalization. When it came, we were too complacent to prepare for competition. That is why the Philippines is being left behind by other countries. And that is why Filipino businessmen are crying again for protection, even clamoring to get out of the World Trade Organization so that we can put up barriers against imports. But since almost the whole world is in the WTO, we would be isolated if we get out of it. With whom will we trade? Who will buy our products? We would be a pariah.

That is why it comes as a shock that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is teetering toward a return to protectionism. It may not be surprising for Trade Secretary Mar Roxas II to be one because his grandfather, President Manuel Roxas, was a staunch protectionist. But Gloria? She was a strong champion of globalization, liberalization and competition when she was with the Department of Trade and Industry and when she became a senator. What happened?

Perhaps the answer is 2004. Winning the presidential election seems to be the President's all-consuming desire. And she is probably accumulating a giant war chest to make sure that happens. And who can afford generous donations to such a war chest? Who else but big business. Like perhaps, just perhaps, foreign corporations which are doing or want to do business here. Many names come to mind, all with pending multi-billion claims on the government, with contracts only needing the signature of the President, with high-priced projects grossly disadvantageous to the government already underway, and global giants asking for protection from our little President.

So don't be surprised if these controversial contracts are suddenly approved before the campaign begins.

* * *

The most preposterous and insulting corporations to ask for protection are members of the cement cartel. They are the world's biggest cement conglomerates asking—no, demanding and threatening—to be protected from small cement companies in Korea, Indonesia and Taiwan which are selling their products here at lower prices. Lafarge of France became the world's biggest conglomerate after it swallowed its rival Blue Circle of the United Kingdom. Cemex of Mexico is the largest international cement trader. And Holcim of Switzerland was the world's biggest cement producer before Lafarge and Blue Circle merged. The cartel controls 90 percent of the Philippine cement market. Yet they are running to Mama crying for protection from small Asian cement companies.

I mean these are big boys who can take care of themselves. Why are they running to our diminutive President for help?

They're not even Filipinos but foreigners who took advantage of Filipino companies and swallowed them. Now they're victimizing Filipino consumers and the Philippine government with their high-priced cement. Worse, they may not be paying capital gains taxes on the profits they are remitting to their mother companies abroad disguised as interest payments on loans. Will you help opportunists like that?

Any sensible person won't. But what if there is something in return for that help?

* * *

The galling thing is that the cartel is disguising its propaganda campaign for protection with "nationalism." Protect us from competition or Filipino workers in the cement industry will lose their jobs, they threaten. They are even using these workers to picket the Tariff Commission and pressure Secretary Roxas to reverse the commission's decision.

There are only 4,000 workers in the whole cement industry. But because the cartel's high-priced cement has sent the construction industry into a tailspin, 1.5 million workers in construction have lost their jobs. Besides, how will the cement workers lose their jobs when there is currently a shortage of cement?

The Macapagal administration, by merely allowing competition to ease the shortage and lower cement prices, will immediately give jobs to more construction workers. And construction has a multiplier effect on 11 other related industries such as steel, sand and gravel, lumber, ceramics, paint, plumbing, fixtures, woodworking, etc. It is standard practice for nations to boost the construction industry to lift a depressed economy. During the Great Depression, the US government encouraged construction by lowering interest rates on housing loans. That put the United States on the road to recovery.

Another disguise of the cartel is to use known "nationalist" leaders as spokespersons. Men like former Sen. Wigberto Tañada and former Rep. Edcel Lagman, both of whom lost in the last elections. Don't they know that they are working for a foreign cartel victimizing their fellow Filipinos? They are not even helping Filipinos or the economy because members of the cartel are sending their profits earned here to their mother corporations abroad.

Wigberto, the son of the staunch nationalist Sen. Lorenzo Tañada, and Edcel, brother of the nationalist labor leader Popoy Lagman. They must be turning in their graves.

Success

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

FINALLY, there's one patch of bright light across the darkening skies. That was the news that came out in "Across the Nation" last Sunday. It told of one Ryan Balili, a summa cum laude, who wants to devote his life to teaching.

Balili is a 21-year-old who graduated from the Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology with an average grade of 1.13. He took up physics. The fact that he studied in MSU-IIT and not in any of the major universities in Metro Manila is itself already an act of heroism. He **chose** to. Notwithstanding that he had passed the college entrance exams of both the UP and the Ateneo. He thought he would save his parents, who lived and worked in Polomonok, South Cotabato, some money by studying in Iligan, which had a competitive physics department. A brother and sister were already studying in Metro Manila, and for him to do so as well would have been a drain on the family resources.

Talent will out, however, and Balili's did in Iligan as it had before in Cotabato where he took up elementary and high school, and where he graduated at the top of his class. But having graduated summa cum laude in physics, Balili has far more ambitions than other wunderkind like him. He doesn't want to work in a multinational company or in Nasa, which are what people who have made it their passion to understand condensed matter normally want to do. He wants to do something for his country. He wants to teach.

With uncanny prescience, Balili knows the temptations that lie ahead. He wonders for one thing if he might change if he studies abroad—he hopes to win a Carnegie-Mellon scholarship to the United States, the better to impart new knowledge in science to his compatriots. But for now, he is determined not to. "I'll be back to make physics fun for my fellow Filipinos," he vows.

It's enough to restore your faith in this country. It's enough to make you hope this country will still get ahead, notwithstanding the folly of its leaders.

Several things make Balili's choice a heroic one. Not least of them is that it was made by someone who comes from a place our leaders themselves keep depicting as home only to war and terrorists. Mindanao is truly a land of promise in more ways than have to do with the promises of Americans, which are like the promises of candidates during elections. It is a land of promise in that people with great promise make promising choices that offer their fellow Filipinos a promising future.

But more than this, I am especially awed by the fact that Balili has professed an earnest desire to teach. It's not easy to attribute that entirely to the idealism of callow youth. For most of the youth of today, the height of idealism consists of resolving not to steal when they become executives of a company or public officials. Though in these times of epically diminished expectations, that already qualifies as epic heroism. But Balili goes farther. He wants to go boldly where no youth of his generation, even those who graduate *pasang awa* from the most productive diploma mills of this country, has gone before. He wants to teach.

Nowhere is the need for teachers been more patent than in this country, but nowhere is the scorn for it more pronounced. Nobody wants to teach anymore. Once a profession that brought in much psychic reward, if a meager, material one, teaching is now a last resort, something only those who have nowhere else to go plunge into. Which probably explains why we are where we are and why Singapore, which has become a Mecca of education, offering academic fortune, if not academic freedom, to Asia's best and brightest who would teach there, is where it is. That a summa cum laude, and one who has taken a course that is a natural magnet for temptation, has decided to follow the path of Socrates, it is a blast of grace.

And one we ought to encourage. But there's the tricky part. For the temptation that will lie in Balili's path won't just come from the things that will be dangled before him by other people. It will come from the things we ourselves will do or say that could drive him into it. The whole thing is like corruption: everyone condemns corruption in public, but everyone admires it in private. The same thing goes for teaching, if in the opposite direction: everyone praises it in public, but everyone snickers at it in private. In public, everyone points to teaching as a sign of success. In private, everyone derides it as a show of self-flagellation. In public, everyone calls it the arc of champions. In private, everyone calls it the refuge of losers.

What will happen once the attention goes and the luster of Balili's choice fades, you and I can only guess. How will Balili be received five years from now in family and class reunions? As the best and brightest who strove to reach beyond his grasp, or as the promising youth who chose to turn his back on his potential? As the summa cum laude who bestowed a *summum bonum* to his country, or as the wastrel who threw away his future?

Easy to say the community will remain as idealistic as he. But this is a country that keeps adding new meanings to Shakespeare's lines that the good that men do are often interred with their bones while the evil that they do lives after them. This is a country that thinks public officials are more important than teachers, as monumental a delusion as you can get, and accords them credit along with cash. Balili's heroic act needs equally heroic moral support—never has the word "moral" been more apt!—from us. Balili has shown the stuff of which winners are made. He has shown wisdom, and character.

The rest of us can do no less.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@...com

EUGENIA D. APOSTOL
Founding Chairman

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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OPINION

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Courage

ALL she wanted was to start a career. So when Juliet Yee met with her prospective boss, little did she know that she was setting off on what her lawyers would later call "a legal odyssey" and finish it in triumph.

As a young graduate of nursing in December 1995, Yee, who was then 22, approached Dr. Rico Jacutin for a job, in the company of her father and a family friend. Jacutin, the chief city health officer of Cagayan de Oro, told her to come back in the afternoon. Thinking she was going to a job interview, she did and came alone this time. Instead, Jacutin told her they were going bowling and asked her to meet him at another place. Later, he picked her up in his car and that was when he began to make sexual advances.

EDITORIAL

Right inside the car, Jacutin told Yee to pull down her pants so he could see if she had varicose veins on her legs. Puzzled but apparently unwilling to show any sign of distrust, Yee complied. As soon as she did, Jacutin was all over her, touching her privates and fondling her breasts. She grabbed her bag and bolted out of the car.

Apparently, it was not the first time Jacutin used his position to try to satisfy his lust. Other women would later come out to denounce him for making unwelcome sexual advances. But to spare themselves any embarrassment, they drew a veil over his foul deeds—until Yee came out with her charges and brought Jacutin to court.

The harassment did not end when Yee sued Jacutin for violation of the Anti-Sexual Harassment Act. The city's social elite rallied behind one of its own against the daughter of a policeman. There was talk that Yee was merely out to squeeze some money from the doctor. Her relatives told her she was wasting time and money and advised her to withdraw her charges. And in the unkindest cut of all, a priest asked her how much she wanted for an amicable settlement of the case. "I was devastated by his act," she recalled much later.

Despite all the pressure, the nasty talk and discouraging words, Yee fought Jacutin from the lower courts all the way to the Supreme Court. In November 1999 she tasted her first victory when the Sandiganbayan found Jacutin guilty and sentenced him to a prison term of six months, the maximum term prescribed by the law, and ordered him to pay a fine of P20,000 plus P500,000 in moral and exemplary damages. More than two years later, she won her final victory when the Supreme Court affirmed Jacutin's conviction. (The Court, however, reduced the monetary compensation for moral and exemplary damages to a total of P50,000.)

It was a long, uphill climb to find justice, but Yee exhibited a remarkable determination to see it to the end. With her successful quest, she has opened the door for other women victims to seek redress for similar grievances.

But first they must overcome their own embarrassment and summon the courage to face a public that more often than not winks at sexual harassment as if it were nothing worse than a childish prank. Putting the story out in the open was the hardest thing she had to do, according to Yee. But once it was done, she had more than half the battle won. She said she no longer cared whether she won or lost the case once the story was out in the open. "I couldn't allow Jacutin to continue his sexual assaults," she said.

Tough though it is, telling one's story can be cathartic. Yee said it helped her recover from the traumatic experience. That's another reason victims of sexual harassment and other sexual crimes should not seek solace in silence.

Nonsense

AT A TIME when the West is meant to be pulling together against terrorism, many EU leaders still seem to regard the United States as their chief rival. How else are we to explain their determination to launch a satellite program in competition with America? At the moment, the whole world can tune in to satellite data courtesy of the United States, whose Global Positioning System uses open frequencies.

FOREIGN COMMENT

At a time when most European states are struggling to cut spending, the EU is about to invest in a satellite system that will give it no added value whatever. To Europe's True Believers, however, the money is irrelevant. The point of Galileo, as they see it, is to challenge Uncle Sam's dominance in space. As President Chirac of France has put it, Europe will be doomed to "vassal status" unless it has an independent satellite network of its own. This is by no means the first time that the EU has insisted on reinventing the wheel when there is a cheaper and better American version on offer.

In their own terms, Euro-federalists are perfectly entitled to extend this logic to space. What is harder to understand is why the British government, notionally committed to the Atlantic alliance, is going along with such nonsense. ***The Daily Telegraph (London)***

Cement cartel: boys don't deserve protection

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

PROTECTIONISM has been the bane and downfall of the Philippine economy since the Commonwealth days. Philippine companies have always been protected from competition from other countries. Thus, we had import controls and currency controls that also bred corruption in mega-scale. Filipino businessmen prospered but not the economy or the country. Because it is protected, Philippine business did not learn to be competitive. There was no need to compete because of protectionism. Businessmen were content to rake in the money from captive Filipino consumers, never mind if they can't export their products. Our exports were mainly agricultural products and natural resources.

Because presidents and political leaders were propped up by lobby money from big business, protectionist policies continued—until we were overtaken by globalization. When it came, we were too complacent to prepare for competition. That is why the Philippines is being left behind by other countries. And that is why Filipino businessmen are crying again for protection, even clamoring to get out of the World Trade Organization so that we can put up barriers against imports. But since almost the whole world is in the WTO, we would be isolated if we get out of it. With whom will we trade? Who will buy our products? We would be a pariah.

That is why it comes as a shock that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is teetering toward a return to protectionism. It may not be surprising for Trade Secretary Mar Roxas II to be one because his grandfather, President Manuel Roxas, was a staunch protectionist. But Gloria? She was a strong champion of globalization, liberalization and competition when she was with the Department of Trade and Industry and when she became a senator. What happened?

Perhaps the answer is 2004. Winning the presidential election seems to be the President's all-consuming desire. And she is probably accumulating a giant war chest to make sure that happens. And who can afford generous donations to such a war chest? Who else but big business. Like perhaps, just perhaps, foreign corporations which are doing or want to do business here. Many names come to mind, all with pending multi-billion claims on the government, with contracts only needing the signature of the President, with high-priced projects grossly disadvantageous to the government already underway, and global giants asking for protection from our little President.

So don't be surprised if these controversial contracts are suddenly approved before the campaign begins.

* * *

The most preposterous and insulting corporations to ask for protection are members of the cement cartel. They are the world's biggest cement conglomerates asking—no, demanding and threatening—to be protected from small cement companies in Korea, Indonesia and Taiwan which are selling their products here at lower prices. Lafarge of France became the world's biggest conglomerate after it swallowed its rival Blue Circle of the United Kingdom. Cemex of Mexico is the largest international cement trader. And Holcim of Switzerland was the world's biggest cement producer before Lafarge and Blue Circle merged. The cartel controls 90 percent of the Philippine cement market. Yet they are running to Mama crying for protection from small Asian cement companies.

I mean these are big boys who can take care of themselves. Why are they running to our diminutive President for help?

They're not even Filipinos but foreigners who took advantage of Filipino companies and swallowed them. Now they're victimizing Filipino consumers and the Philippine government with their high-priced cement. Worse, they may not be paying capital gains taxes on the profits they are remitting to their mother companies abroad disguised as interest payments on loans. Will you help opportunists like that?

Any sensible person won't. But what if there is something in return for that help?

* * *

The galling thing is that the cartel is disguising its propaganda campaign for protection with "nationalism." Protect us from competition or Filipino workers in the cement industry will lose their jobs, they threaten. They are even using these workers to picket the Tariff Commission and pressure Secretary Roxas to reverse the commission's decision.

There are only 4,000 workers in the whole cement industry. But because the cartel's high-priced cement has sent the construction industry into a tailspin, 1.5 million workers in construction have lost their jobs. Besides, how will the cement workers lose their jobs when there is currently a shortage of cement?

The Macapagal administration, by merely allowing competition to ease the shortage and lower cement prices, will immediately give jobs to more construction workers. And construction has a multiplier effect on 11 other related industries such as steel, sand and gravel, lumber, ceramics, paint, plumbing, fixtures, woodworking, etc. It is standard practice for nations to boost the construction industry to lift a depressed economy. During the Great Depression, the US government encouraged construction by lowering interest rates on housing loans. That put the United States on the road to recovery.

Another disguise of the cartel is to use known "nationalist" leaders as spokespersons. Men like former Sen. Wigberto Tañada and former Rep. Edcel Lagman, both of whom lost in the last elections. Don't they know that they are working for a foreign cartel victimizing their fellow Filipinos? They are not even helping Filipinos or the economy because members of the cartel are sending their profits earned here to their mother corporations abroad.

Wigberto, the son of the staunch nationalist Sen. Lorenzo Tañada, and Edcel, brother of the nationalist labor leader Popoy Lagman. They must be turning in their graves.

Success

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

FINALLY, there's one patch of bright light across the darkening skies. That was the news that came out in "Across the Nation" last Sunday. It told of one Ryan Balili, a summa cum laude, who wants to devote his life to teaching.

Balili is a 21-year-old who graduated from the Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology with an average grade of 1.13. He took up physics. The fact that he studied in MSU-IIT and not in any of the major universities in Metro Manila is itself already an act of heroism. He **chose** to. Notwithstanding that he had passed the college entrance exams of both the UP and the Ateneo. He thought he would save his parents, who lived and worked in Polomonok, South Cotabato, some money by studying in Iligan, which had a competitive physics department. A brother and sister were already studying in Metro Manila, and for him to do so as well would have been a drain on the family resources.

Talent will out, however, and Balili's did in Iligan as it had before in Cotabato where he took up elementary and high school, and where he graduated at the top of his class. But having graduated summa cum laude in physics, Balili has far more ambitions than other wunderkind like him. He doesn't want to work in a multinational company or in Nasa, which are what people who have made it their passion to understand condensed matter normally want to do. He wants to do something for his country. He wants to teach.

With uncanny prescience, Balili knows the temptations that lie ahead. He wonders for one thing if he might change if he studies abroad—he hopes to win a Carnegie-Mellon scholarship to the United States, the better to impart new knowledge in science to his compatriots. But for now, he is determined not to. "I'll be back to make physics fun for my fellow Filipinos," he vows.

It's enough to restore your faith in this country. It's enough to make you hope this country will still get ahead, notwithstanding the folly of its leaders.

Several things make Balili's choice a heroic one. Not least of them is that it was made by someone who comes from a place our leaders themselves keep depicting as home only to war and terrorists. Mindanao is truly a land of promise in more ways than have to do with the promises of Americans, which are like the promises of candidates during elections. It is a land of promise in that people with great promise make promising choices that offer their fellow Filipinos a promising future.

But more than this, I am especially awed by the fact that Balili has professed an earnest desire to teach. It's not easy to attribute that entirely to the idealism of callow youth. For most of the youth of today, the height of idealism consists of resolving not to steal when they become executives of a company or public officials. Though in these times of epically diminished expectations, that already qualifies as epic heroism. But Balili goes farther. He wants to go boldly where no youth of his generation, even those who graduate *pasang awa* from the most productive diploma mills of this country, has gone before. He wants to teach.

Nowhere is the need for teachers been more patent than in this country, but nowhere is the scorn for it more pronounced. Nobody wants to teach anymore. Once a profession that brought in much psychic reward, if a meager, material one, teaching is now a last resort, something only those who have nowhere else to go plunge into. Which probably explains why we are where we are and why Singapore, which has become a Mecca of education, offering academic fortune, if not academic freedom, to Asia's best and brightest who would teach there, is where it is. That a summa cum laude, and one who has taken a course that is a natural magnet for temptation, has decided to follow the path of Socrates, it is a blast of grace.

And one we ought to encourage. But there's the tricky part. For the temptation that will lie in Balili's path won't just come from the things that will be dangled before him by other people. It will come from the things we ourselves will do or say that could drive him into it. The whole thing is like corruption: everyone condemns corruption in public, but everyone admires it in private. The same thing goes for teaching, if in the opposite direction: everyone praises it in public, but everyone snickers at it in private. In public, everyone points to teaching as a sign of success. In private, everyone derides it as a show of self-flagellation. In public, everyone calls it the arc of champions. In private, everyone calls it the refuge of losers.

What will happen once the attention goes and the luster of Balili's choice fades, you and I can only guess. How will Balili be received five years from now in family and class reunions? As the best and brightest who strove to reach beyond his grasp, or as the promising youth who chose to turn his back on his potential? As the summa cum laude who bestowed a *summum bonum* to his country, or as the wastrel who threw away his future?

Easy to say the community will remain as idealistic as he. But this is a country that keeps adding new meanings to Shakespeare's lines that the good that men do are often interred with their bones while the evil that they do lives after them. This is a country that thinks public officials are more important than teachers, as monumental a delusion as you can get, and accords them credit along with cash. Balili's heroic act needs equally heroic moral support—never has the word "moral" been more apt!—from us. Balili has shown the stuff of which winners are made. He has shown wisdom, and character.

The rest of us can do no less.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@...com

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Inauspicious start of 4-day workweek

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE FOUR-DAY workweek initiated by the Macapagal administration took off after the long Holy Week to a desultory start with few takers in the Department of Labor and Employment, the department responsible for its implementation. The DOLE issued an implementing order outlining the "adjusted working hours" in all offices under the executive department. The four-day workweek was billed as a boost to domestic tourism, but the first to take off for a trip overseas to attend an international conference and incidentally promote foreign tourism was Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas.

The first person I was referred to for further information, in the absence of Sto. Tomas on the first ever scheme on shorter working hours since President Manuel L. Quezon's eight-hour labor law under his Social Justice Program, was Fortor Pagoon, director of the Bureau of Working Conditions. Pagoon has been on sick leave since Monday, and was unable to oversee how the new experiment worked. I was asked to call the Human Resource Development Service, which drafted the order implementing Administrative Order 32 that decreed the four-day workweek.

Norma del Rosario, a very accommodating bureaucrat, said that there was a more than 50 percent compliance with the order. But in the Bureau of Working Conditions, 65 percent of the staff stayed with the normal five-day, 40-hour week, refusing to take the four-day-week option. Both Del Rosario and a lady spokesperson at the Bureau of Working Conditions admitted that AO 32 took their staff by surprise. The administrative order was a decision handed down from the top and all the middle-rung bureaucrats had to do was to write the implementing rules. They were not consulted, but it's possible Secretary Sto. Tomas was. The bureaucrats were not aware if overseas models on a shorter workweek had been studied.

The four-day workweek is good for April and May, during which children are on a long holiday from school. Theoretically, the three-day weekend for public servants would permit them to spend longer time with their family and children. Under a flexible plan, employees may opt for a Friday-to-Sunday continuous weekend, or for Saturday-to-Monday.

At first glance, this is a boon to families to have longer time with one another. But the drawback is that on a working day, working hours are long—10 hours instead of eight. Already some employees find the hours too long and fatiguing and since they could leave work at past seven, they would be seeing their children late in the evening, allowing time for travel in traffic gridlock or to neighboring provinces. So, whatever is gained at the weekend is cancelled off by the long working hours and shorter time to be with their children before they go to bed.

The main purpose of AO 32, however, is really not giving more time for the family to be together. The five "whereases" of the AO all make a pitch for "the policy of the State to encourage and promote domestic tourism." They say that the expected increase in domestic traffic would enhance not only the contribution of tourism to the gross domestic product but also the Filipinos' knowledge of their historical and cultural heritage.

This main objective of AO 32 is, however, its most serious flaw. The average income of civil servants, except senior bureaucrats and technocrats, does not permit them to go on touristic travels every weekend. As Sen. Edgardo Angara points out, education and health needs take priority in their incomes. So, Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon's pitch for the four-day workweek to boost tourism is based on unsubstantiated statistical computations and wishful thinking. The glibness of the administrative order has the hallmark of Gordon's sleek salesmanship and disregard of hard statistical data.

Gordon may be a good salesman like a circus magician pulling rabbits from a hat, but the average civil servant knows better—he or she, because of meager income, is not the best engine that can drive local tourism to take off.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's four-day workweek scheme could win political points but these points are being bought at the expense of the work ethic and even economic output. The state is the biggest employer in the Philippine economy, and the output in services of civil servants cannot be discounted in the computation of the GDP. On the five-day, 40-hour workweek scheme, the efficiency and output of state employees leave much to be desired. On a four-day workweek, it is hard to expect improvement of efficiency and output, even if they are to work 10 hours a day, with much of these being squandered in loitering and doing something else.

The Macapagal scheme collides head-on with the work ethic—and the collateral culture of saving that goes with it—that served as the dynamo of capitalism and free enterprise. Recently, when her administration came under concerted attacks designed to destabilize it, the President complained, "I work 16 hours a day, six days a week, with only Sunday devoted to my family. Sometimes, I feel like throwing in the towel already.".

In the four-day workweek, she has thrown in the towel on the work ethic.

Goodbye and hello

HIGH BLOOD

Salud Posadas-Evangelista

THIS morning, the college secretary called me, informing me of a teaching load for the trimester. I gave her my regrets, saying I have decided to retire from teaching and for them to assign the course to someone younger. Not satisfied with my answer to the secretary, the chair called me in the afternoon with the same request. My response: "I love teaching. I like the particular course and teaching a small class of 10 would be great. But it is time for me to let go of what I had been doing the past 49 years."

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. **—Ed.**

I had taught since 1951. Never was there a dull moment. I had enjoyed those years with my students, learned from them, savored their affirmations, relished their friendship. My search for finding out the latest in the area and trying out different ways to get the lessons across, contributed to my growth as a teacher. But after 70, it is time to move on and let the younger ones take over.

Letting go is never easy. It may bring about a strange feeling of loss, being empty or broken. Letting go is saying goodbye to parents, spouses, children, friends. We leave the neighborhood where we have grown with all its memories. We say goodbye to our young, healthy bodies—at times, even parts of that body. We change schools, jobs, migrate to another country. Our children grow up and leave us to lead lives of their own. We lose contact with childhood friends. Even our faithful househelp get married or leave. However, when we let go, we say hello to other things.

The hello-goodbye pattern is a part of human existence. It spells the need for change in our lives in order to grow and the necessity to let go before one can truly move on. What are the things we say goodbye and hello to. Well…

Goodbye to yummy, sinfully delicious pastries, crackling "killing me softly" *chicharon*, reddish, yellowish aligue.

Hello to Quaker Oats (so says the advertisement) today; tomorrow *bangus*: broiled, steamed, *sinigang*, atbp.; morning, noon, night; juice: carrot, camote tops, Noni (?).

Goodbye to "30 years ago, she called me a snob, now you expect me to be nice to her?"

"Me, go to the homecoming? After what the nuns did, giving the gold medal to 'you know who' whose mother is the No. 1 seller of the school *velada* tickets…"

Hello to "Nice to see the old girls, compare notes on waistlines, hair dye, good children, DIs…forget about the gold medal (*'yun pala tanso lang*)."

Goodbye to outdated standards: What will the neighbors say? The relatives, what will they think?

Hello to the neighbors, the relatives: they are too busy with their own problems to bother with ours…

Goodbye to famous last words: *"Matanda na ako, ikaw bata pa, ano ang alam mo?"*

Hello to the truism that wisdom is not the monopoly of the aged and the aging.

Goodbye to *"Basta't may pera, ayos na!"*

Hello to money is not the solution to every problem.

Goodbye to "I can't bear to sell this house, it has too many memories…"

Hello to "One can take along one's memories wherever one goes…"

Goodbye to "These cats, they have kept me company the past 10 years, how can I ask that they be put to sleep?"

Hello to…time for them to "rest in peace."

Goodbye to straight legs, 20/20 vision, thick glossy, jet black hair and perfect teeth.

Hello to arthritic knees, *doble vista* specs, wig, extenders, porcelain denture.

Goodbye to "The cheat! *Magdusa siya*. After all, he deprived his sister (our Lola) of what is due her."

Hello to "Leave him to heaven."

Goodbye to grandiose dreams—a mansion, beach house, summer retreat, a Jaguar…

Hello to "Where you are going, you can't take them all with you?"

Goodbye to illusions/delusions: "My son will yet become president…"

Hello to "No need, he may turn out to be as lousy as…"

Goodbye to being rigid: "Life has to be like this… I should…you must."

Hello to flexibility, resilience.

Goodbye to my favorite pediatrician, OB, dermatologist, orthodontist.

Hello to my internist, endocrinologist, cosmetic surgeon, cardiologist and gerontologist.

Goodbye to high heels, spaghetti straps, bare back.

Hello to soft low-heeled shoes, scarves, shawls and dusters.

Goodbye to a recital of our aches, pains, frustrations.

Hello to Bengay, veggies without seeds, non-fat calcium plus milk and realistic expectations.

Goodbye to plans for the children and their children (what they will wear, what they will do, what course to take, etc.).

Hello to letting them be…letting them grow.

Goodbye to skimping, collecting, hoarding.

Hello to recycling, sharing, giving.

Goodbye to possessive relationships.

Hello to broader attachments.

Goodbye to indifference, apathy.

Hello to staying alive, getting engaged with life and being involved.

Goodbye to complaining, thinking *"Kawawa naman ako,"* to being smug and complacent among familiar things.

Hello to getting out of our comfort zones and taking the risk of…

Goodbye to old ailments of the heart.

Hello to blessings that "fatten the heart."

Goodbye to our children as they leave home to lead lives of their own.

Hello to empty spaces in our hearts and filling them up with relationships that extend, not stifle.

Goodbye to old angers/prejudices.

Hello to new ideas, novel approaches, fresh perspectives.

Goodbye to self-talk that is a mixture of guilt and complaints, that "life is unfair."

Hello to self-talk that forgives oneself, affirms and accepts that "life is unfair and may treat us unkindly."

Goodbye to position, authority, power.

Hello to freedom.

From experts we learn that to let go is to surrender. To surrender is to give up our power over something. In surrendering, we open ourselves up to the risk of the unknown. This posits tremendous trust in God. This is not easy because of our desire to be in control of everyone and everything. We want things happening our way in our time. However, life is not like that, no matter how much we try.

To arrive at this stage, one has to recognize what is it that needs letting go, then accept the wisdom of not clinging to it. The next step would be to gather up all the force of our will and to take action which is, to actually leave whatever it is behind us. A big help would be to open up to others, to bond with them and find out how we can help each other. When we focus on others, we will respond rather than merely react to them. This will take us out of our self-centeredness. Finally, "To let go is to lean on God even when He seems far away."

Sweet victory

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

I DON'T know if it was just a slow news day, or our editors were just loath to add anymore column inches to the death of Rico Yan, but still, it's remarkable that this paper's banner story yesterday should be on a sexual harassment case, even if it's the Supreme Court ruling with finality on a case that began in 1996.

I can still remember the days when a story on sexual harassment, if it landed in the front page at all, was invariably used as the "funny" or "light" story of the day, usually accompanied by a cartoon. Before it became a legitimate issue in its own right, sexual harassment was treated as comical and even somewhat risqué. The tone with which the stories were written was either derisive—putting in doubt the woman's motives (was she out for revenge, or suing to right an imagined insult?) or the man's social competence—or alarmist (watch out for women using sex appeal to ensnare hapless men!).

But in those days, women would have been grateful for even just any scrap of attention paid to the issue. The biggest hurdle that had to be overcome was not sexism but indifference. Yesterday's headline story, in fact, about the sexual harassment case filed by Juliet Yee against then Cagayan de Oro health officer Dr. Rico Jacutin, never made it beyond the inside pages.

* * *

WHEN not making fun of the issue, the male-dominated media establishment, in the rare times it chose to pay attention to sexual harassment, showed a penchant for turning the issue on its head. Though fully 90 percent, if not more of the complainants, were women, and 90 percent, if not more of the perpetrators, were men, a disproportionate number of stories were about male victims.

I found it ironic, to say the least, that the only major Hollywood movie made about workplace sexual harassment had a male protagonist, played by Michael Douglas, chased around the office by his new female boss, played by Demi Moore.

Some years before the Jacutin case, our women's group Pilipina organized a "speak out" against sexual harassment on campus at UP Diliman, with the help of student organizations. One by one, young women found the strength and courage to stand up and speak out about their own experiences of sexual harassment at the hands of faculty members, classmates, even strangers. Among the more courageous ones was a male student who pointed out that young men, too, were being sexually harassed especially if their sexual preferences were in doubt. In fact, he said, young men like him were forming their own organization.

Well, guess what led the story on the "speak out"? Of course, it was the organization of male victims, even if the spokesperson had been the lone male to speak out among so many women. Perhaps it's just journalism's nature to focus on the bizarre and unusual, the "man biting dog." But in the process, such coverage skews the message, and sends the wrong impression about this most insidious form of violence against women.

* * *

STILL, congratulations are in order. Primarily, to Juliet Yee, for her staunch moral courage and remarkable perseverance, despite so many obstacles placed in her way by local authorities, and in the face of pressure from Jacutin's influential friends, including a priest. Her fight was not just for herself, since it became clear in the course of litigation that she was not the only applicant or city health department employee who had been sexually harassed by Dr. Jacutin. So many were his victims, in fact, that they were able to form their own NGO! Beyond Jacutin, though, Juliet's fight was also the fight of all women, wherever they are in the country and the world, who find that they must defend themselves and their honor even when it is they who have been victimized. Also deserving of mention are Juliet's lawyers, Reynaldo and Remedios Llego, who insisted on pursuing the case even when the odds seemed insurmountable. Through the years, Remy, who is a friend, would come running with one story after another on the case's laborious progress through the legal labyrinth. Doubtless sharing in the feeling of vindication and victory are the members of the Pilipina Cagayan de Oro chapter, who supported Juliet by attending the hearings and helping organize the NGO of Jacutin's victims. I don't know if Juliet's win before the Supreme Court will exactly encourage more women to go public with their cases. It took eight years out of Juliet's life, after all. But even as we help women confront the violence against them, we must make it clear to them that the fight will be long, nasty and heartbreaking, though it makes victory all the sweeter.

* * *

FROM READER Bon Moya comes this reaction to yesterday's column on the death of Rico Yan, actor, TV personality, commercial endorser and budding civic leader.

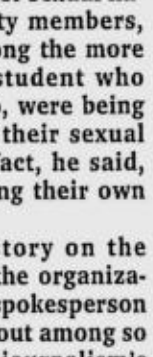
"This is not to take away anything from Rico Yan's life (and death) but rather to put 'more' into other lives and deaths," says Bon, agreeing that the fervid media attention paid Yan's passing was "disproportionate." "Does this mean that people are not at all equal not only in life but in death as well? Are our lives' priorities a function of media's zeal? Is it because Rico was too young to die or is it because it was too unexpected for our comfort?" he asks.

Whatever the explanation for this current obsession with a star who's "gone too soon," Bon believes "it is a sad reflection of us as Filipinos—that our perception of the value of life is as personalistic and as short term as our politics."

New research on 'bangungot' needed

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo



HEMORRHAGIC pancreatitis is a rather difficult scientific word for something all Filipinos know as *bangungot*. Rooted in the two Tagalog words *bangon* (to rise or wake up from sleep) and *ungol* (to moan), *bangungot* is a condition that afflicts young, healthy Filipino males and kills them in their sleep. *Bangungot* is also another word for nightmare. In the 18th-century "Vocabulario de la Lengua Tagala" by the friars Noceda and Sanlucar, the following usage is given "*binangongot nang demonio ang asawa ni Pilatos* (the devil induced a nightmare in the wife of Pilate)."

In Philippine folklore, *bangungot* is a creature of the night that usually takes the form of a fat man. This creature sits on the face of the victim who cannot move or scream. After some struggling and moaning, the victim dies of suffocation. In another version of the story, the *bangungot* stuffs his penis and testicles in the mouth and nostrils of the victim, again, killing him by suffocation. The survival tip is to make your big toe move and, if possible, for the victim to bite the toe and wake up from this fatal nightmare.

Another folk explanation for *bangungot* is that a person's soul sometimes leaves the body when the person sleeps. When the soul fails to return to the body at daybreak, the person is found lifeless by the those who find him.

If you sometimes wake up in the middle of the night with the sensation of falling off from bed, this is supposed to be the soul returning to the body and making a crash landing. Another version of the story has the soul going off in search of food. It goes to the kitchen in the form of a lizard (why not a cockroach or a rat?) and rummages through the pots and pans. This explains why old folk do not kill or drive away rodents in the night for these may be the soul of someone sleeping in the house. Since we live in the 21st century, we don't believe in *bangungot* taking the form of a fat man anymore. We want to be more scientific, more rational. We now have hemorrhagic pancreatitis.

Over the weekend, my Lenten reflection was disrupted by news that young actor Rico Yan passed away while on vacation in a beach resort. Since newspapers were not available on Good Friday and Holy Saturday, news traveled largely by talk and text. Was it another terrible text joke? When the newspapers finally hit the streets on Easter Sunday, Yan was front-page news. An autopsy ruled out death by foul play or an overdose of the hip drug Ecstasy. Cause of death was simply *bangungot*.

The pioneering medical study on *bangungot* is by Dr. Paz Mendoza-Guazon who published in the 1917 Revista Filipina de Medicina y Farmacia an article titled "Algunas notas sobre Bangungot (Some notes on Bangungot)." She was led into her research when a cousin of her husband died of *bangungot*. She requested the Bureau of Health to send her, for autopsy, all cases of *bangungot*. In all cases, she found a distended stomach with a partly digested meal, congested organs and the right ventricle of the heart dilated. At this time, US doctors and coroners in Guam and Hawaii were baffled by the *bangungot* deaths of Filipinos leading to sensational news stories on the "mysterious deaths." Dr. Mendoza-Guazon in 1917 asked three questions. First, why does *bangungot* occur only among Filipino males and during the cold months of the year? Second, is there a relation between the eating of newly harvested rice and a *bangungot* attack? Third, are the taking of a late supper and going to bed soon afterwards, contributory factors to *bangungot* death?

Dr. Mendoza-Guazon explained that not all cases of *bangungot* were fatal. In her interviews she found out that the victim, though awake, could not move or shout. While she could not explain how the motor nerves did not respond to the central nervous system, she noted that once one or both of the big toes could be moved by the victim, he would survive. Her prescription was simple. Eat dinner early. Or, after a heavy meal, allow some time for food to digest before going to bed.

In 1948, Dr. Alvin V. Majoska, a coroner in Hawaii, made headlines on his study on the "Nightmare Deaths" that afflicted healthy male Filipinos who died in their sleep. There was no trace of foul play here, and if he read the numerous autopsy reports in Manila from 1915, he would know that poison was also ruled out. One Manila coroner suspected poison and fed the victims innards to dogs which suffered no ill effects except, perhaps, developing a dangerous taste for human meat.

In 1965, publisher Alfredo Benipayo established the Foundation for Bangungot Research Inc., following the death of his eldest son from *bangungot*. Benipayo, like Dr. Mendoza-Guazon in 1917 and Dr. Majoska in 1948, felt that a solution to the mystery could be found. Unfortunately, the Foundation for Bangungot Research died when its founder passed away, fortunately not of *bangungot* though I was told by Dean Armando Malay, who served as PRO of the foundation, that a relative of Benipayo also died of *bangungot*. The death of a celebrity like Yan would not go to waste if it encourages new research on *bangungot* that should give us some answers rather than vague theories. If an explanation can be found, a cure is not far behind.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Contending with public utilities

THE FILIPINO people are being gradually squeezed to death, not by holdup men or kidnappers but by the public utilities.

The water distribution companies which promised the people lower rates when they first took over, have constantly increased their charges. What one household used to pay monthly (less than P900) has now gone up to more than P2,700, which is a 300 percent increase. They are trying to recover their losses due to foreign exchange rates and operational losses by passing the burden on to the consumers.

Meralco has announced that it is going to increase its rates by as much as 116 percent.

Public utilities, by their very definition, are established to serve the public. All the fantastic price increases are immoral. What they are doing or planning to do are worse than holdups and kidnapping for ransom since they will drain the people's pockets every month for years to come.

Malacañang and Congress should lose no time in stopping them from driving the Filipino people to desperation.

—L. ENCHONG SEE, enchong@eudoramail.com

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Speaking up in her son's defense

I AM writing this as a mother—like any mother—who must stand up to defend the right of my son, his wife and children to a good name. So many misrepresentations, distortions and lies are being heaped on our good name that I deeply feel I must clarify these things. As a teacher for much of my professional life, my nature drives me to right what is wrong.

I write these lines to revive the memory of our people. During martial law, after Ninoy Aquino's assassination, my son, Heherson Alvarez, as chair of the Ninoy Aquino Movement overseas, took great pains to open the eyes of the American people, especially their leaders in Congress and President Reagan, to the plight of the Filipino people under the dictatorship and sustain attention to the brutal slaying of Ninoy.

In all these activities I was just an observer. I was the quiet old lady who was serving coffee and food to the stream of visitors in our humble flat in New York. I remember some of them were Orly Mercado who was sent by Doy Laurel together with a cameraman upon the request of my son, to take pictures of the mansions and buildings the Marcoses bought with their hidden billions; Tessie and Butz Aquino with Ducky Paredes and Nikki Coseteng; the Japanese journalist Wakamiya, and correspondents of the New York Times and USA Today.

I am now 86 years old, poor of hearing, with arthritic knees and walking with a cane. Despite this, I forced myself to attend the confirmation process of my son because it's important for a mother's presence to be a testimony to her son's worth. My son did not want me to attend because he was afraid my blood pressure would go up, but no one could stop me. I thought if Enrique Zobel could use his being a paraplegic as a symbol of his strong feelings, the least I could do was to take no account of my own physical frailties. I am just sorry that Zobel, a known Marcos business ally, is being fed false information. He is being used by an assistant who has no qualms in putting lies in the mind of Zobel and our people. Can you imagine, he said my son and Marcos were made of the same stuff?

This is very painful and cruel. Our family suffered so much under Marcos. We went through hell because of Heherson's commitment to what is right and to the national good. Even though he's an Ilocano like Marcos, he dared defy the dictator. Because of this defiance in the interest of truth, I lost my other son, Marsman, who was tortured to death, his mutilated body thrown in a churchyard. During the wake, our friends, to spare me more pain, nailed the coffin so that I would not see Marsman's real condition. But as a mother I pleaded to say my last farewell and be able to hug him—only to find out that his eyes were gouged out, his tongue cut and his neck bashed. I cried out against this injustice.

My husband suffered a stroke that led to his death. I myself almost lost my mind. Yet, we did not complain to Heherson nor did we ask him to stop, for how could I when I had offered him as a very sickly baby to Our Lady of Piat and I had taught him to follow his heart and conscience to do what he thought was right when he was growing up. It was only when I was brought to the United States that I regained my bearings and shook off my depression. I found therapy in taking care of my grandson, Hexilon, and my newborn granddaughter, Xilca. I kept myself busy by cooking and serving all the associates of Heherson.

So it is so terribly painful to hear this assistant of Zobel cite his motives for the accusations against Heherson as purely for public interest and impute ill motives to my son. I do not think I am wrong to claim that my son has been loyal to his principles. In all the years he has devoted to public service, he has stood for what he saw was right and good for our people, unafraid of the consequences to himself and his family. During the coup d'état against President Cory Aquino, I remember him taking to the airwaves on Channel 9, defying the rebellious soldiers who had by that time captured a building in Makati. He was warned the TV station would be bombed, but Heherson stayed put because he felt it was important to give correct information to the public. I was on my knees praying for his safety.

I remember also that when the popular newly elected President Estrada said he would bury Marcos in the Libingan ng mga Bayani, it was Heherson together with his son, daughter and wife, along with Msgr. Nico Bautista, Sister Arnold and a couple of blind singers, deaf and crippled performers of Cecile's drama group, who first went out to protest in public at Mendiola this plan of Estrada. This defiance against a very popular President was supported by many others.

Then again when he initiated the impeachment of Estrada, many came to me to tell Heherson about the madness of trying to impeach Estrada. A congressman of our own home province said, "Heherson is *luko-luko*." The President was too popular. There were new threats to our lives. There were tempting offers. But my son held his ground and linked up with like-minded lawmakers and civil society. And with prayer power, strengthened by the stand of Jaime Cardinal Sin, former Presidents Cory Aquino and Fidel Ramos, with resigned Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, joined by all sectors of society especially the youth, a movement for reform blossomed once more.

Now, Zobel's assistant and their columnist friends portray my son as arrogant because he stands up for principles. Does he want my son to fold up to pressure and desist from investigating the son of a powerful congressman in Southern Tagalog? I am sure that many Tagalog congressmen are fair and vote their conscience and not their regional affiliation. For they, too, are brave like the Ilocanos.

At the last hearing of the Commission on Appointments, I was a little amused by the boastful claims of Peter Abaya about his mathematical wizardry, in a vain attempt to hide the fact he had allowed the deadly chemicals destroying our ozone layer to increase when his duty was to see that this went down. He is a clever young man to be able to rationalize ODS smuggling, but shouldn't his kind of mathematics yield to ethics, as Heherson said at the hearing? Marcos was probably the most clever president, but he forgot the moral limits. I appreciate Zobel's concern, but where is he on the issue of the increase in ODS?

Amid the malicious attacks, I find solace in seeing that many have come to the hearings and expressed their support in newspapers, including bishops and other religious leaders. It is comforting for a mother to know a son has touched many lives in his 40 years of public service. As a boy he wanted to be a priest—and I would have been happier—but he became a politician instead as his way of serving others and his Creator. I am proud he is doing one more job as the head of Department of Environment and Natural Resources to protect us all.

—JUANITA T. ALVAREZ

Why is gov't importing branded medicines?

WE commend the government's initiative in finding ways to provide affordable, quality drugs to our countrymen.

That the cost of drugs is now beyond the reach of the average Filipino is a given fact. To comply with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's State of the Nation Address that the government will lower drug prices by 50 percent, the Department of Trade and Industry has embarked on parallel importation of commonly used drugs from abroad, where prices are lower than those prices prevailing in the Philippines.

However, the price comparisons shown to the public are those of similarly branded products. Such imported, branded products have generically equivalent products marketed here by national companies. For example, the price of Bactrim (a brand) from India is compared with the price of Bactrim marketed in the Philippines by the same manufacturer.

Government imports Bactrim adult 800 mg/160 mg from India and sells it at P3.90 per tablet compared with P24.60 for the same brand marketed locally. The generic name of Bactrim is Cotrimoxazole. A generic name of a drug is the international non-proprietary name (INN) given to a chemical compound.

Why import branded products when the government is pushing generics to lower the cost of drugs? This defies understanding. In fact, the manner of price comparisons is prescribed by the Implementing Rules and Guidelines of the Generics Act of 1988 and other administrative orders of the Department of Health to ensure compliance with the Generics Law. But government violates its own laws!

—GONZALO C. GALANG, director, Chamber of Filipino Drug Manufacturers and Distributors, Rm. 404 Jovan Condominium, 600 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City

Holding our judicial system hostage

IT is unfortunate that despite previous calls for greater sobriety and circumspection, former President Joseph Estrada has not relented in making statements that tend to erode the foundations of our judicial system and lead our nation into anarchy.

With his recent statements, Estrada has conditioned his cooperation in his own criminal trial on the resignation of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and certain members of the Supreme Court.

The Philippine Bar Association (PBA) stands firm in its support for Davide and the other respected members of the Supreme Court, who are now subject of Estrada's unwarranted calls for resignation. The PBA is united in manifesting its undiminished faith in the competence, integrity, independence and probity of these magistrates.

When Estrada imposes conditions in exchange for his abiding with the rule of law, he attempts to hold our entire judicial system hostage. The administration of justice in our country must never be made subject to conditions imposed by an accused who stands trial—not even if the accused is a former head of state. For the rule of law to prevail in our civilized society, justice must be served without fear or favor. The PBA remains steadfast in its faith in the ability of our judicial system to dispense justice with fairness and independence.

The PBA therefore reiterates its call for greater sobriety and circumspection, and for Estrada to be true to the oath he once took to uphold the Constitution and the rule of law.

—FEDERICO Y. ALIKPALA JR., president, Philippine Bar Association, Suite 347, Valero Plaza, 124 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City

Our low regard for Japayukis

I CAME back home last December to the Philippines after eight months in Japan. As always, since the plane was from Japan, I was surrounded by a lot of Filipina entertainers who also had the same plans as I did—to celebrate and have a wonderful and joyous Christmas and greet the New Year with our loved ones. I was very happy to talk with some of them. They shared their experiences and sentiments of which I, as a scholar of the Japanese government and receiving a different treatment from the Japanese people, did not quite experience from the stories they told me. The only thing we all shared was the loneliness we felt in living far from people we dearly loved.

Upon my way back to Japan last Jan. 12, I was so shocked with the way our own people at the immigration desk treated our Filipina workers and entertainers. Officers that day were laughing at them as if they were some cheap whores on the streets of many cities. My friends here in Niigata City have witnessed the same treatment of Filipina workers and/or entertainers from the employees of a Philippine airline (and of Filipinos in general—they serve foreigners better than people of their own race).

Many Filipino scholars here in Japan believe that they must be respected and must be treated properly for they, like other OFWs, are remitting dollars to their country. They are right now one of the main reasons why at least 30 percent of our nation's people are living above the poverty line. They are working hard here in Japan to be able to earn a living for their respective families.

For the information of those who do not know how the Filipina workers/entertainers are doing here, they are well-respected by Japanese people who are better able to appreciate their talent and the sacrifice they are making for their families. Most of them are decent entertainers and not cheap opportunists.

Now, if the Japanese people, who are by nature so disciplined, can offer their highest regard to them, why not us Filipinos?.

—RICHARD SANTIAGO LEMENCE, student, Niigata University, Niigata, Japan

US role in the Middle East crucial

THE ALMOST daily carnage in Israel in the Palestinian-held territories is a painful blow to humanity. The Holy Land, with Jerusalem as the center of the great religions, is nowhere near the ideal.

Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority, for all intents and purposes, presents itself as both inutile and insincere in stopping suicide attacks while innocent Israelis continue to bleed and die. Ariel Sharon's policy of revenge provides equally disturbing images, depriving Israel of a clear edge in the moral use of force.

The violent developments in the Middle East serve up a recipe for global disaster. The bloodlust there threatens to unleash the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse and cause an international catastrophe. Only the United States' exceptional use of coercive force and persuasive power, in concert with Europe and the Muslim world, can avert the worst.

Because it must eschew the impertinence of unilateral action that inevitably fragments alliances, yet, consider timely moral interventions while forging consensus, the United States must lead wisely and honorably toward the attainment of lasting peace, sustainable development and enduring dignity for all.

—RAFAEL M. ALUNAN III, 63 9th St., Quezon City

Unable to agree with Sister Christine

THERE is so much Sr. Christine Tan says I agree with that I am surprised when I am unable to do so. Alluding to us who used to handle Erap's defense in the plunder case, she advised: "We get incensed with the tactics of certain defense lawyers, and we focus on their antics, instead of writing them and giving them a piece of our mind." (Letters, 3/28/02)

The chair of the Third Division who used to head it was the one sacked by the Supreme Court for his antics, not anyone of us in the defense. The Ombudsman and certain Sandiganbayan justices would have loved to have us cited for contempt but even they could not show we had ever crossed the line in making it difficult for the state to impose on the Estradas the death penalty, to which I have been philosophically opposed. It could not become law in my time because of my filibuster, of which I remain proud. Some of the best laws are those you don't make.

Antics? Erap bashers shafted us for opposing the daily trials the Ombudsman pined for, and the Special Division said for us to be there three days a week. We could not adjust. Neither could our replacements. The court reduced the frequency but the Ombudsman was quick to rationalize that it was because of the four-day work week, which does not apply to judicial proceedings.

Sister Christine may recall that in 1981, because of the likes of Ombudsman Aniano Desierto, I nearly got cited for contempt by Military Commission No. 6 for my "antics" then when Desierto and the court also wanted to send Ed Olaguer and company to the Promised Land.

Some Christians may say that Erap "does not even deserve to be called a human being," but I also believe in animal rights. My place is on the weaker or despised side, not giving up on anyone. On that I have always been focused, the fixed star I, as a Christian, lawyer and human being, go by.

—R.A.V. SAGUISAG, 4045 Bigasan St., Palanan St., Makati City

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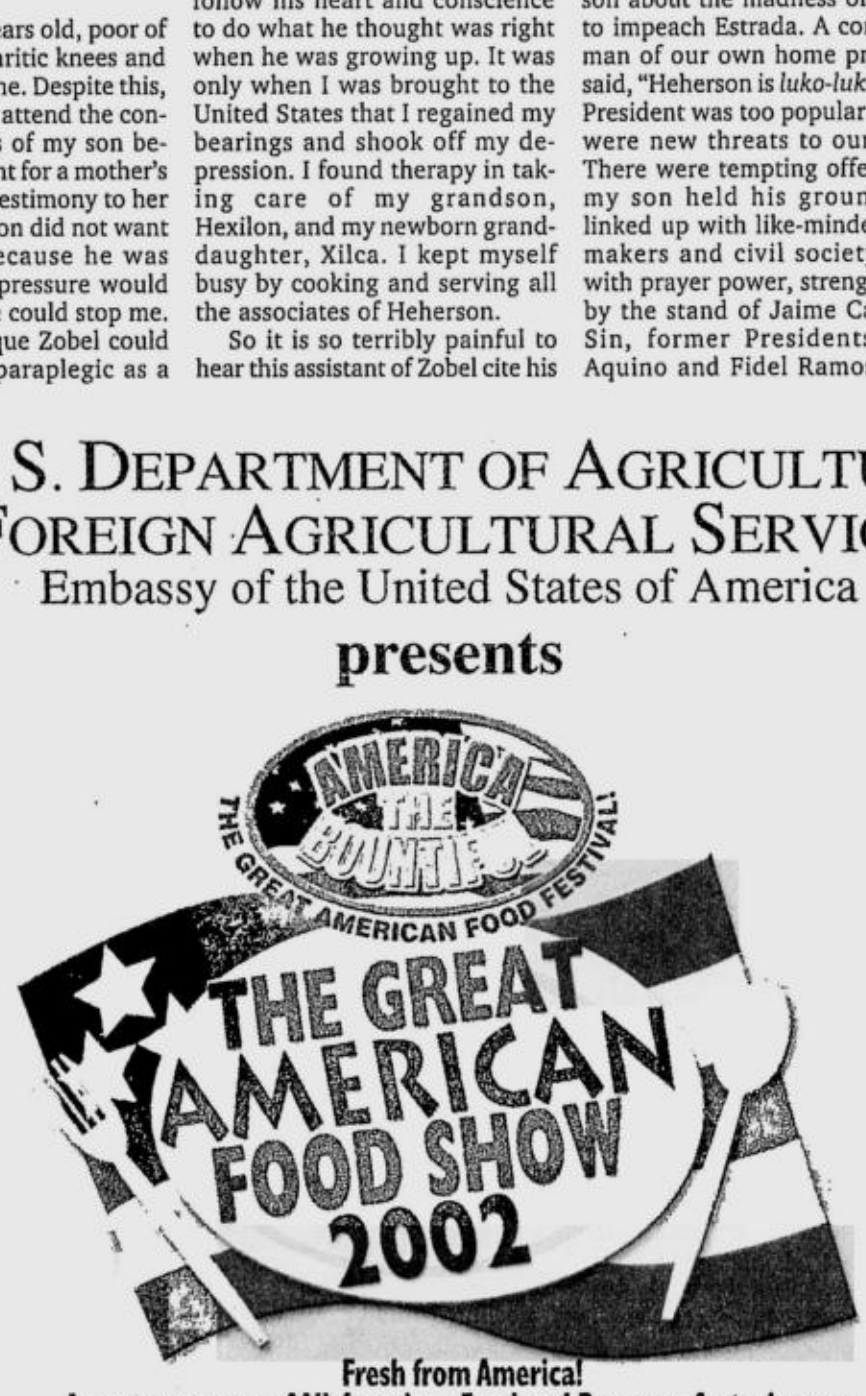

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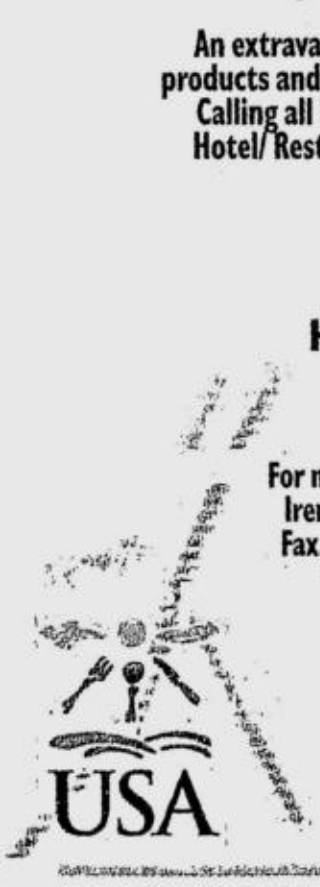

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Indonesia Muslim radicals vow to supply fighters to Palestinians

JAKARTA—Two radical Indonesian Muslim groups vowed on Tuesday to supply fighters for a holy war to defend Palestinians against Israeli forces, although previous such calls met a muted response in the moderate Islamic nation.

"We are going to make a proposal for a plan to send fighters to Palestine," Muhammad Rizieq, head of the militant Islamic Defenders Front (FPI), said.

He said another radical organization called the Islamic Youth Movement (GPI) was joining the effort.

The FPI helped spearhead thousands-strong anti-US street protests in Jakarta last year after US-led forces attacked Afghanistan to hunt Osama bin Laden. *Reuters*

Iraq, Iran consider using oil vs Israel

KUALA LUMPUR—Iraq and Iran said Tuesday that oil would be a potent weapon to pressure the United States to force Israel to withdraw its forces from Palestinian areas, but that the support of all Muslim oil producing countries is needed.

Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazi said at a news conference the use of Arab oil to turn the screws on the US and Israel would depend on a collective decision by Islamic countries.

"If they decide to use oil as a weapon certainly Iran will consider it. It will be effective if all Muslim countries would take such a decision," he said on the sidelines of an Organization of the Islamic Conference meeting on terrorism.

Iraq's ruling Baath party on Monday called on Arab countries to use their oil power against Israel and the United States to ensure the liberation of Palestinian land.

"Use oil as a weapon in the battle . . . otherwise it will become a burden which will lead to (more) humiliation," the party's national command said in a statement.

The statement branded the United States "an enemy and a partner of Zionism," and alleged that the Israeli military offensive in the Palestinian territories "was mounted in joint agreement with the American administration."

Washington dismissed Baghdad's call as "random musings."

Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states have resisted such calls in the past, and Indonesia said Tuesday that getting the consensus that would be needed to go ahead with such a plan would be "quite impossible."

The idea emerged as Arab frustration with US policies perceived to be favoring Israel deepened as Israeli forces step up a military campaign in the West Bank in response to a wave of Palestinian suicide bombings.

Calls for using oil as a weapon are likely to further hike oil prices, which rose to their highest level in six months Monday because of traders' fears that tension in the Middle East could disrupt supplies.

The last time Arabs used oil as a political weapon was in 1973, when oil-producing Arab nations sought to pressure the United States and Western Europe by reducing exports. The embargo caused a major global energy crisis and sent oil prices skyrocketing.

In November 2000, Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter and Washington's closest Arab ally, led the adoption of a pledge by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and other major exporters that oil would not be used as a political weapon. Iraq did not attend.

"Arab countries have the right to coordinate their policies to put pressure on Israel and those who defend Israel," Iraqi Foreign Minister Naji Sabri told reporters at a gathering by Muslim countries in Malaysia to discuss terrorism.

Sabri justified using oil as a weapon—apparently by restricting supplies—because Israel is "orchestrating a major terrorist campaign against Palestinians and threatening peace and stability in the Middle East."

Indonesia's representative at the Malaysia meeting, Justice Minister Yusril Ihza Mahendra, said competition in the oil market was more intense now than during the 1970s, and getting consensus on any move which could affect prices would be difficult.

"Now a lot of countries outside Opec also produce oil . . . and competition over price is very high," Yusril said. "It is not easy to reach a consensus to use oil as a weapon, I am quite pessimistic on that . . . I think it is quite impossible." *AP, AFP*

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Islamic countries wangle over 'terrorism'

KUALA LUMPUR—A major Islamic conference appeared headed for deadlock over defining terrorism Tuesday.

Delegates from among the 53 nations represented here said it was highly unlikely that a suggested definition of terrorism as "attacks on civilians" would be accepted.

A key sticking point is Palestinian suicide bombers, described as "terrorists" by the proposer of the definition, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, but as freedom fighters by many other countries.

A Middle Eastern delegate who requested anonymity said speeches behind closed doors Tuesday made it clear that many countries objected to Mahathir's definition.

He said the Kuala Lumpur Declaration due to be issued on Wednesday would likely be framed in general terms and avoid a specific definition of terrorism.

The search for a definition was one of the main objects of the conference, called by Mahathir in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington.

He told the opening session of the Organization of the Islamic Conference foreign ministers' meeting Monday: "We cannot hunt down terrorists until we agree who they are and we cooperate in the hunt."

Lebanon's foreign ministry secretary general, Mohammad Issa, said he did not agree with the inclusion of Palestinian suicide bombers as terrorists.

"Our view is that we need to differentiate between terrorism, which we condemn strongly, and national resistance to liberate a country from foreign occupation," he said.

There has been no problem with Mahathir's inclusion of Israeli security forces who attack civilians in his definition of terrorists.

But one Arab delegate said he found the meeting "frustrating".

"The whole thing is a talk show. We are talking about what is terrorism and here we have Israel going on and killing civilians.

"It is frustrating and disappointing that the Arab world cannot unite to stop this massacre." *AFP*

Al-Qaida suspects nabbed in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD—Pakistani police said Tuesday they had arrested 16 mostly Arab men suspected of having links to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida group during raids in the eastern city of Lahore overnight.

Police said the men, detained late Monday for illegally entering Pakistan from Afghanistan, were being interrogated over their suspected membership in Bin Laden's global terror network.

"We have taken into custody 16 foreigners, mostly Arabs. They had come from Afghanistan and they were hiding in Lahore," said Lahore police chief Javed Noor.

"There was no resistance. We caught them by surprise. They were hiding in houses in the Township neighborhood in the southern part of the city.

"These people had been living in Afghanistan, that is for sure. We are interrogating them to find out their identities and their background." *AFP*

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Captured al-Qaida leader may know whereabouts of Bin Laden

WASHINGTON—The capture of Abu Zubaydah, al-Qaida's top surviving operational commander, is one of the most significant accomplishments in the US war on terrorism, officials and experts said Monday.

In Zubaydah's head are the names, faces and locations of numerous al-Qaida operatives the world over, US officials say.

He may also know the hiding place of Osama bin Laden.

"It's a major, major victory, if not the biggest victory so far," said Stan Bedlington, a former senior terrorism analyst with the CIA. "He's the biggest fish that we've caught."

Pakistani authorities, in concert with the CIA and FBI, captured Zubaydah in a raid last Thursday at a compound in Faisalabad, far from the Afghan border, US officials said, speaking on the condition of anonymity. Zubaydah was shot three times trying to escape—in the stomach, groin and leg—but was expected to survive, said one official.

He is in US custody, but it's unclear if he remains in Pakistan, is among the 20 al-Qaida suspects to be sent to the US naval station at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, or whether he will be transported to a separate location.

Zubaydah acknowledged his identity, said Pakistani officials and others familiar with his capture. Other past associates have also identified the captured man as Zubaydah, US officials said.

Only bin Laden, Ayman al-Zawahri and Mohammed Atef ranked higher, and Atef was killed by US air strikes in November.

Zubaydah has been linked by intelligence and police officials to at least five al-Qaida terrorist plots, including the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. The extent of his role, however, has not been fully determined.

Captured al-Qaida operatives said he organized the millennium plots to blow up Los Angeles International Airport and the Radisson SAS Hotel in Amman, Jordan, which is frequented by American tourists. Both were thwarted.

In 2000, a Jordanian military court found him guilty in absentia of conspiracy to carry out terrorist attacks and he was sentenced to death in absentia.

Zubaydah, a 31-year-old Palestinian who was born in Saudi Arabia, was also tied to thwarted plots to blow up the US embassies in Paris and in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, after Sept. 11. US officials say they are investigating his links to the attacks on the USS Cole and the bombings of the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. ***AP***

A BOTTLE of gin, the Queen Mothers' favorite tipple, has been left among the floral tributes outside her London residence, Clarence House April 1. REUTERS

Queen Mother's coffin brought to London

LONDON—The coffin of Britain's Queen Mother is being brought to London on Tuesday with grandson Prince Charles grieving for the "gloriously unstoppable and magical" matriarch who meant everything to him.

The heir to the throne put his heart on his sleeve in a moving television tribute to his grandmother who died on Easter Saturday at the age of 101.

The king-in-waiting, the grief etched on his face, said: "She seemed gloriously unstoppable."

The 53-year-old prince, his eyes filling with tears, said in Monday's address: "She was quite simply the most magical grandmother you could possibly have and I was utterly devoted to her."

It was an extraordinary outpouring of raw emotion from the House of Windsor—and in sharp contrast to the monarchy's perceived attitude when Princess Diana was killed in a Paris car crash five years ago.

Then the royal family was accused of being cold and uncaring as Britain was engulfed by a tidal wave of emotion over the tragic death of the "People's Princess."

Now Britain, hailing the symbol of wartime defiance that saw the monarchy through seven decades of tumultuous change, moves into a week of carefully choreographed national mourning.

The coffin is being driven by hearse on Tuesday from the chapel of All Saints in Windsor Great Park on the hour-long journey by road to the Queen's Chapel in London.

On Friday the coffin will be taken by gun carriage to Westminster Hall to lie in state. Palace officials expect up to 400,000 people to file past before next Tuesday's funeral full of pomp and circumstance in Westminster Abbey.

On Easter Monday, a bank holiday in Britain, 41-gun salutes rang out from London to Gibraltar as the military paid tribute to the perennially popular matriarch who was the grande dame of the royal family. ***Reuters***

Banned chicken drugs being sold in Thailand

BANGKOK—Thailand, under threat of a partial food trade embargo from Europe, will tighten enforcement of antibiotic import rules after banned chemicals were found on sale in shops, an official said on Tuesday.

Thailand banned imports of nitrofuran and chloramphenicol last month in a bid to reassure markets that Thai food products are safe after traces of nitrofuran were found in chicken and shrimp shipped to Europe.

The European Union said it would ban Thai chicken and shrimp imports if the antibiotic is found in testing again over the next few weeks.

"Random buying from local shops in two provinces recently we found nitrofuran and chloramphenicol are still available," said Rapeepong Vongdee, director general at the Thai agriculture ministry's department of livestock development.

"I never thought we would find the drugs sold in the local market given that the Thai government has already banned the import of nitrofuran as well as 20 other chemicals," Rapeepong told reporters.

"We will ask the customs department to further tighten the controls on the import of antibiotics."

Nitrofurans are veterinary drugs, the use of which in food producing animals is no longer allowed in the EU because of a possible risk of cancer in humans who eat contaminated food over long periods.

The use of the antibiotic chloramphenicol, linked to anemia in humans, has been banned in Europe since 1994.

Thailand is the world's top exporter of frozen shrimp and the second largest exporter of chicken to the European Union, earning around 15 billion baht ($344.3 million) a year from that market. ***Reuters***

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5 Ne Win relatives to be charged with treason

RANGOON—Five relatives of former dictator Ne Win who are accused of plotting a military coup are to be charged with high treason, an offence punishable by death, a senior junta official said.

Burma's deputy military intelligence chief, Major General Kyaw Win, told reporters late Monday that the 92-year-old Ne Win's daughter Sandar Win, her husband and three sons had also committed serious economic crimes.

"We will charge them not only with high treason but with economic offences," he said, adding that they were suspected of smuggling vehicles from Thailand and illegally selling mobile telephone handsets.

Early last month the junta arrested Ne Win's son-in-law Aye Zaw Win and his three sons, accusing them of having plotted to overthrow the current military regime.

Since then Ne Win and his daughter Sandar Win have been under virtual house arrest at their Rangoon residence but until now have faced no charges.

"But when the time comes for us to take Khin Sandar Win into custody, we'll do that without delay. We believe she is the key player in the scenario for the coup which has now backfired," Kyaw Win said.

The death penalty is often suspended in Burma, and observers said it was likely that if such a sentence was handed down to the Ne Win family members it would be commuted to life imprisonment.

Kyaw Win said Ne Win remained in good health despite his advancing age and was being cared for by Sandar Win, a medical doctor in her 50s.

"We are still providing him with needed medicine and his daughter, Dr. Khin Sandar Win is still looking after him," he said, adding that this would not prevent the authorities from taking her into custody.

Kyaw Win said that since the junta began investigating the coup plot, 100 people including military and police officials had been arrested.

The four highest-ranking figures netted—the air force chief of staff, the chief of police and two regional commanders—remain in custody, he said.

"We still have to investigate, and if need be, have to take in more persons involved in the aborted coup plan," he said.

The high treason charges are expected to be tried in a special court before moving up the chain of appeals.

The maximum penalty for high treason is death, with a minimum set at 20 years imprisonment with hard labor.

Economic offenses also carry stiff penalties, with 10 years jail the maximum penalty for the misuse or destruction of public property. The alleged smuggling offences are also likely to carry separate charges. ***AFP***

Koizumi government under fire over handling of mad cow crisis

TOKYO—Japan's scandal-plagued government came under fire on Tuesday for ignoring warnings that could have prevented an outbreak of mad cow disease last year and spared the food industry and consumers months of pain and uncertainty.

An investigating panel excoriated the government for failing to follow advice from the World Health Organization in 1996 to ban meat-and-bone meal (MBM) in cattle feed, thought to be the cause of the brain-wasting disease.

Calling that failure a "grave mistake," it also charged the government with stomping on a European Commission study that warned of an outbreak of mad cow three months before it happened.

"If the EC report had been made public, and the Japanese government had taken measures proposed by the report, we would have avoided the panicked reaction to the outbreak of the disease," the report said.

The report comes at a bad time for Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, who has seen his support rating plummet in recent months—initially after sacking his popular foreign minister but more recently because of a series of influence-peddling scandals involving members of his Liberal Democratic Party.

The panel's conclusions will pile extra pressure on Farm Minister Tsutomu Takebe to step down over his handling of the crisis, which critics have called negligent and incompetent.

The outbreak of mad cow disease in Japan last September devastated consumer confidence in beef, sent shares of food companies tumbling, hit the restaurant business and shattered faith in Japan's food-safety standards.

Formally known as bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), the disease has been linked to variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, which has killed about 100 people in Europe but none in Japan.

The panel accused parliamentary members of putting the priorities of the politically powerful farming lobby ahead of those of ordinary consumers.

It also charged the farm ministry with knowingly ignoring alarm bells over a possible outbreak of a disease that had crippled the British farm sector in the late 1990s.

On the streets of Tokyo, confidence in food safety remained in the gutter on Tuesday.

"I doubt the farm ministry is really concerned about people's health," said Fukuda Teruo, a 60 year-old taxi driver.

"Better to eat fish," he said.

Nearby, Korean-style barbecue beef restaurants in Tokyo's Akasaka entertainment district, always bustling before September, were struggling to attract lunchtime customers. ***Reuters***

Belgrade in war crimes dilemma

BELGRADE—Yugoslavia's Cabinet, fearing the fallout from a freeze on US aid, on Monday backed full cooperation with the UN war crimes tribunal and a top minister said more suspects would be transferred to the court.

But other leaders in the reformist bloc which ousted Slobodan Milosevic were still divided on the issue, which goes to the heart of a wider debate over how Belgrade should deal with its bloodstained recent past and approach the future.

While supporters of Serbian premier Zoran Djindjic argued the government decision was enough to sanction the transfer of suspects, his arch-rival Yugoslav President Vojislav Kostunica insisted a special domestic law also needed to be passed.

The government met in crisis session after Washington froze about $40 million in financial aid because Belgrade had failed to meet a US-imposed March 31 deadline to pass a series of tests including cooperation with the tribunal in The Hague.

"We (made) a unanimous decision that, as a member of the UN, we are obliged to fully cooperate with the ICTY (International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia) and have asked all state bodies to fully cooperate," Foreign Minister Goran Svilanovic said after the meeting.

Asked if the move meant new handovers, he said: "Yes, I think that after such a decision all state bodies are obliged to cooperate with The Hague, which means . . . to arrest those accused of war crimes and transfer them to The Hague."

In Washington, US Secretary of State Colin Powell on Monday deferred a ruling on whether Yugoslavia should get the rest of its aid this year, a US official said.

"We've decided not to decide," the state department official said on condition of anonymity, adding there was no timeframe for Powell to make up his mind on the issue.

Another US official, who also spoke on condition of anonymity, said the deferral was not open-ended and indicated a final decision should be expected sooner rather than later. But he declined to predict how long it would take. ***Reuters***

REUTERS

CHERRY BLOSSOMS IN WASHINGTON Framed by cherry trees along the Tidal Basin, a couple walks their baby near the Jefferson Memorial (background) April 1. Thousands of tourists have descended upon the US capital for peak cherry blossom viewing this week.

Congo peace talks in trouble

OHANNESBURG—Peace talks for the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) ran into more trouble Monday as negotiations on the country's political future deadlocked and rebels warned they would stop working with UN observers.

The Rwandan-backed Congolese Rally for Democracy (RCD) rebel movement said it would not abandon two key towns in eastern DRC after the UN Observer Mission to the Congo (MONUC) had failed to prevent government forces from recapturing Moliro, a village where fighting has flared in recent weeks.

The setback came just 11 days before landmark peace talks in South Africa, aimed at bringing a definitive end to the DRC's war and setting the country on the road to democracy, are due to end.

Azarias Ruberwa, the secretary general of the RCD, said the rebel movement felt betrayed because MONUC had "not stopped the government from recapturing Moliro."

The RCD took Moliro in mid-March, but under pressure from the UN, retreated on Wednesday. At the weekend MONUC confirmed finding government soldiers in the town.

"The betrayal is such that we are no longer obliged to cooperate fully with MONUC," Ruberwa told journalists on the sidelines of the talks at the Sun City casino resort. ***AFP***

Chirac, Jospin tied, analysis shows

PARIS—President Jacques Chirac and Prime Minister Lionel Jospin are virtually even in the latest Reuters analysis of opinion polls for the French election campaign.

If anything, Jospin is very slightly ahead, but his lead in the most decisive measure of voter support is a barely perceptible half percentage point, according to the Reuters Poll Trend, a smoothed average of the major polls.

Each candidate has close to 50-percent support for the second-round vote that will be held on May 5, compared with a Jospin lead of about two percentage points seen in mid March.

An April 21 first-round vote is expected to eliminate all candidates except Jospin and Chirac, but the minor contenders may be able to influence the final decision by backing either the president or prime minister in the second round. ***Reuters***

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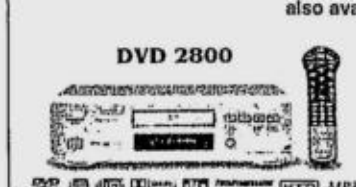

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S. Korea pins hopes on trip of special envoy

SEOUL—South Korea sends a special envoy to North Korea on Wednesday hoping to coax its reclusive neighbor out of its shell and back into talks on reconciliation.

But analysts and media say frosty relations between the North and the United States, the South's main ally, are likely to complicate his task.

The three-day trip by President Kim Dae-jung's special adviser Lim Dong-won will be the first public contact between the two sides since November.

Lim has said he will carry a personal message from Kim Dae-jung to North Korean leader Kim Jong-il and urge the North to revive a series of lapsed North-South cooperation projects.

The projects include resuming reunions of families divided since the 1950-53 Korean War, restoring severed North-South road and rail links and reviving a troubled tourism scheme and a project to build a South Korean industrial park in the North.

Beyond the practical aims are diplomatic goals including convincing Kim Jong-il to keep his two-year-old promise to visit South Korea and to persuade the North to restart talks with the South's diplomatic allies the United States and Japan.

Kim Dae-jung, 77 and in the final year of his presidency, has issued a series of upbeat comments on prospects for reviving his "Sunshine policy" of Korean rapprochement that he took to historic heights with a June 2000 summit with Kim Jong-il.

On Monday, Kim said he expected Lim's trip would not only help "improve North-South relations but also will put in place the conditions for a resumption of North Korea-US talks."

But a recent Hyundai Research Institute survey of 107 South Korean experts on North Korea found 61 percent thought inter-Korean ties would remain in stalemate through 2002. ***Reuters***

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Across the NATION

Assistant Editor **Tony Bergonia**

NPA ambushes continue in Samar, Davao Norte

By Vicente S. Labro
and Cynthia A. Borgueta
PDI Visayas Bureau
and Anthony S. Allada
PDI Mindanao Bureau

OFFENSIVES staged by the communist New People's Army continue days after the rebel group commemorated its 33rd founding anniversary on March 29.

In Tacloban City, two Army soldiers were killed while a militiaman was wounded in an ambush staged by about 30 NPA members early morning yesterday along the national highway in Samar.

In Davao del Norte, a soldier was killed while four others were wounded when suspected NPA rebels ambushed them in the hinterlands of Talaingod town on Monday morning.

The Samar ambush happened at about 5:45 a.m. at Barangay Madalunot, Pinabacdao town, about 300 meters from an Army patrol base and some 45 kilometers north of Tacloban.

No identities

Military authorities declined to divulge the identities of the slain soldiers pending the formal notification of their kin.

But police sources said those killed included a corporal and a private first class who belonged to the Army's 52nd Infantry Battalion based in Lawaan town, Eastern Samar, about 70 km from Pinabacdao.

The same sources said a certain Labado, a member of the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu) was wounded in the encounter.

The bodies of the fatalities were brought to the Samar Provincial Hospital in Catbalogan, Samar's capital town, about 60 km from the ambush site.

In Davao City, Gen. Felipe Beroya, chief of the 701st Infantry Division, identified the lone fatality in the ambush as Pfc. Joseph Liclican of the Army's 72nd Infantry Battalion.

Wounded were Lt. Fernando Payapaya, a certain Corporal Cabanao, Private First Class Catalan, and a still unidentified soldier.

In a report to Chief Supt. Nardito Yoro, police director for Eastern Visayas, Sr. Supt. Conrado Calvario, Samar police director, said the military recovered from the ambush site two M-16 rifles and one M-14 rifle.

Calvario said six soldiers and a Cafgu member were on a routine foot patrol along the Maharlika Highway in Barangay Madalunot when about 30 rebels fired at them.

The government troops shot back but the rebels fled after five minutes of exchange of gunfire.

Calvario said a military and police reinforcement team arrived at the scene and pursued the rebels.

Military and police personnel in the region have been on red alert in anticipation of an NPA attack to coincide with the rebel group's founding anniversary.

Yesterday's ambush was the second conducted by the NPA this year. On Feb. 28, some 200 rebels attacked the police station of Motiong town, Samar, killing two policemen and seizing several high powered firearms.

Negros

The NPA was also blamed for recent atrocities in the Visayas, including the killing of seven civilians in three towns in Negros over the last three weeks and the burning of two buses in Cebu on Easter Sunday.

The recent victim was identified as Nicodemos Magallano, 40, a former member of the paramilitary Civilian Volunteer's Organization, in Barangay Trinidad, Guihulngan, Negros Oriental.

Army Capt. Dexter Ampong, 303rd Infantry Brigade spokesperson based in Negros Occidental, said 14 rebels led by a certain Ka Pongcol waylaid Magallano and his five companions on Black Saturday in Trinidad.

Ampong said the rebels shot and killed Magallano. His five companions were allowed to leave unharmed.

On March 21, five civilians were separately killed in Guihulngan and Ilog towns.

Killed in Guihulngan were Danilo Alangilan, Joven Canafuego and Wilbeno Remontal, an alleged former member of an NPA breakaway group, the Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Bongcayao Brigade (RPA-ABB).

Police identified the victims in Ilog as Daniel Rebenito and Rodane Perwelo.

The alleged summary executions in Negros Occidental started on March 5 when rebels gunned down Jerry Catubig, said to be an RPA-ABB sympathizer, in Barangay Villegas, Guihulngan.

Davao

In an interview with dxRP Radyo ng Bayan on Monday afternoon, Beroya said a platoon of soldiers was responding to reports that NPA rebels had been harassing employees of a detachment of Alsons Inc., a plywood manufacturing company, when ambushed.

The rebels allegedly belonged to the NPA's Front Committee 35 led by a certain Kumander Yolie. The group was behind the killing of former Talaingod mayor Jose Libayao late last year.

A policeman was also killed by four suspected rebels who fired at his house in Maco, Compostela Valley, on Sunday night.

The victim was identified as PO3 Ernesto Barrete of the provincial police office.

A certain John Arciaga, 15, who was inside the policeman's house during the attack, was hit by stray bullets.

On Black Saturday, another group of suspected rebels clashed with members of the Army 8th Special Forces in Lupon, Davao Oriental.

No one was reported hurt in the encounter.
With a report from Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Food summit starts

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Farmers, traders and representatives of nongovernment groups and government agencies will start tackling today issues on food security and how best Mindanao can address agricultural production.

The 4th Mindanao Food Congress (MFC), organized by the Mindanao Business Council, expects more than 1,000 participants, including those coming from Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Malaysia.

Edwin Andot, president of the Chamber of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Industries of Northern Mindanao, said the issues have already been drawn up and awaiting refinement by the participants, especially the stakeholders of various industries in Mindanao.

"In this congress, we will no longer consume much time with formulating resolutions. We will focus more on the doable and how best Mindanao can get its share of the country's budget for development," Andot said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo will be guest speaker at the opening of the food congress.

The President declared in her first State of the Nation Address that a modern agriculture sector is one of her administration's key strategies to win the war against poverty. ***Butch D. Enerio, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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'IT WAS REALLY A CLOSE CALL'

Pinoys caught in Israel-Palestine crossfire, says Baguio vice mayor

BAGUIO CITY—An official here, who was in strife-torn Israel when the suicide bombings occurred last month, said many Filipino overseas workers and migrants have been caught in the crossfire between Israel Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Vice Mayor Betty Lourdes Tabanda, who returned from Israel on March 28, urged Philippine foreign affairs officials to provide immediate security measures for Israel-based Filipinos, some of whom apparently work as undocumented domestic workers in northern Israel.

Tabanda was attending a three-week long multinational congress on urban economics sponsored by the Israeli government when Palestinian rebels began attacking Israel's populated districts.

"It was really a close call. I was booked in a hotel owned by the Ghalil chain. I had just checked out and then I heard the resort was attacked," she told the INQUIRER on Saturday.

Twenty-two people died from a suicide bombing on Holy Wednesday in an Israeli hotel banquet hall. On Black Saturday, 32 more were injured from a suicide bomb attack on Tel Aviv.

"I have no idea how the (Department of Foreign Affairs) is handling the situation there. I have not been approached about our condition there. But the fighting was always concentrated in the West Bank, south of populated Israel, but since I arrived there on March 5, the bombings had been moving northward where Filipinos stay," Tabanda said.

"I know you were always wondering about me whenever you received news about Israel. I knew you were worried, but had I been killed, I know there are a few who would be happy," she told City Hall employees in Taglish.

Tabanda said the urban economics congress was a scholarship program opened to small town governments all over the world. It provided in-depth conditioning on urban mapping, urban economic forecasting and urban assimilation techniques.

Tabanda was among 55 government scholars of different nationalities.

"But we were always on the move and we were always secured by the Israeli military. We were a little afraid. I know from the Philippine experience that you will always be a target from insurrectionists if you are with a military cordon. But we were on the whole safe," Tabanda related.

"It is the Filipinos working in Israel that I am a little worried about. The attacks have been inching forward into the northern territories of Israel and we have no assurance yet about their protection," she added. ***Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Rice shortage hits remote Isabela town

By Villamor Visaya Jr.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

PALANAN, Isabela—This remote coastal town (pop.: 15,317), whose residents are mostly farmers and fishermen, is suffering from rice shortage because of transport problems and a low rice yield during the last harvest season.

Residents, especially the Dumagat tribal folk and those in remote villages, admitted feeling the pinch of the economic crisis due to the rice shortage.

They said they have no choice but to eat cassava or sweet potato as alternative staples.

Mayor Natividad Bernardo has asked the chief of the National Food Authority warehouse center to buy milled rice in Baler, Aurora or Mauban, Quezon, immediately so that they can distribute it to residents.

Getting rice in bulk from Isabela is not easy as Palanan is accessible only through a 30-minute light plane ride, a 24-hour ferry boat ride from Mauban or Baler, or a 12-hour ferry boat ride from Sta. Ana, Cagayan.

However, plane or boat fares, and the corresponding baggage fees are expensive.

The town can also be reached through a three-day hike via the foot trails of the Sierra Madre ranges from San Mariano town.

Bernardo said she hoped the rice shortage will not last long as the rice harvest season has started.

"Farmers are starting now to harvest their produce so we need not worry too long," she said.

Reynante de Vera, Palanan planning and development office economic researcher, said residents have been planting and harvesting cassava and sweet potato as alternative crops in anticipation of the rice shortage, just like what they did in the previous years.

Jack Rabi, 31, an outrigger boat operator in Barangay Centro East, said the rice shortage has been forcing the Dumagat and some residents to barter their fish catch for rice. But there are only few takers.

"Rice is gold here. Imagine expensive varieties of fish, like *lapu-lapu* or blue marlin, being bartered for a few kilos of rice. That is how precious rice is in this town," he said in Filipino.

Local officials also reported that rats and snails have attacked their crops, destroying about 500 hectares of their farms in 17 villages.

Rat attacks have also been reported in the nearby coastal towns of Dinapigue, Divilacan and Maconacon.

Orlando Acera, Barangay Maligaya councilman, said rats and snails have attacked about 80 hectares of palay farms in their village. He said the infestation had brought their harvests down by at least 50 percent.

EDWIN BACASMAS

SOUVENIR SHOTS
A member of the US Special Forces, Rick Van Rickley, shows a video footage to residents of Barangay Matarling in Lantawan, Basilan, where American and Filipino soldiers are currently holding the Balikatan war exercises.

Lastimoso worries over LTO drug test limitations

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The Land Transportation Office is applying a computer-checking system to control the agency's national drug examinations.

Roberto Lastimoso, LTO chief, said the measure aimed to address anomalies involving this prerequisite for applicants for driver's licenses.

He said the drug tests being used by the LTO are not capable of detecting cocaine or Ecstasy, an illegal designer drug, in the urine samples of license applicants. He said this technical loophole alone would set back the program's objectives.

"The chemical additives used to detect Ecstasy and cocaine are very expensive, and to add these purchases means higher drug test fees," Lastimoso said.

"Our drivers are already complaining about the high cost for testing. Besides, the most common substance (on the streets) are marijuana and shabu. Ecstasy and cocaine are for the rich," he explained.

"When the rules and regulations were made to implement the law, only marijuana and shabu were cited. Their thinking was that public utility drivers would not be able to afford other drugs," he pointed out.

Lastimoso said he replaced the chief of the LTO drug testing committee in response to supposed graft at numerous drug-testing centers in the provinces.

"I just inherited the drug test program. It was already there when I assumed office. What we are doing now is to improve the system. There have been several reports of anomalies with tests whose (approved) results (contradicted these medical examinations)," he said.

Lastimoso also announced the operations on April 15 of a centralized authentication center that links LTO computers to all accredited insurance agencies in the provinces, in order to clamp down on insurance-related graft, which his predecessor Edgardo Abenina had tried to stop.

"Abenina left behind a lot of reform measures which I am continuing," Lastimoso said.

He said he has higher hopes for the LTO authentication center, which he described as a built-in "service provider" for all insurance transactions.

He said graft occurs when insurance covers are used for multiple transactions in other provinces.

"Now they can't do that because the computer can easily trace the insurance coverage. The insurance company pays the provider for access to the network and should not cost the applicant a single centavo," he said.

Moving faith sends throngs to Camarines Sur village

By Juan Escandor Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

CALABANGA, Camarines Sur—During the Holy Week, Hinulid (meaning laid to rest), a small barangay here, is transformed into a moving faith of devotees who believe that miracles can happen to them.

Amang Hinulid is the image of Jesus Christ that many devotees who visit Barangay Hinulid attest have worked miracles on them.

Rebecca Hilario, 66, caretaker of Amang Hinulid, said she now lives a second life because of a miracle.

Three years ago, her doctor pronounced her clinically dead after she suffered a stroke, but after about five minutes, she returned to life. She said Amang Hinulid wanted her to continue her mission.

She said that before she breathed her last, she called out the name of Amang Hinulid to tell him that she did not want to die yet.

After the incident, Hilario said she has strived to reach out to other people through religious activities for her patron.

She was named caretaker of the image by her father, Julio Tandog, because she was born on a Friday.

Hilario said her father had told her that the image arrived from Spain in the 17th century and was originally owned by a certain Doña Bartola Repolito.

Since then, Amang Hinulid has helped many devotees regain their health after suffering from different illnesses, Hilario said.

Amang Hinulid is visited by hundreds of thousands of devotees who come starting Wednesday until Good Friday.

From Naga City, the devotees, going to and coming from Hinulid, walk barefoot for at least 40 kilometers to pay homage to Amang Hinulid during sunset.

Consuelo Oliveros, 54, visited Amang Hinulid on Friday to give thanks to the gift she received in 1990.

"I have devoted my time coming here very often since I suffered a stroke that paralyzed my whole body. I made this vow. My husband and children help me. Now, my ailments are gone," she said.

Oliveros claimed that after several visits to Amang Hinulid, her disabilities disappeared and her speech was restored.

Nellie Barrameda, 67, another stroke victim, said she now enjoys good health, which she attributed to Amang Hinulid.

Leona Castañeda, 62, had lumps in the breast that the doctor diagnosed as malignant. She said she prayed to Amang Hinulid and made her vow to regularly visit the place.

The lumps are now gone, she said.

The Catholic Church sanctions the devotion to Amang Hinulid.

The Parish of Our Lady of Porteria coordinates the Holy Week activities with the Council of Amang Hinulid here. The council is composed of elder members of the Tandog family and decides on activities involving Amang Hinulid.

Even the municipal government is involved in the activities of the village during the Holy Week.

The barangay has for several years been unofficially considered the center of devotion of the faithful in Camarines Sur during the Holy Week.

Mayor Ruben Medroso said he had instructed the police to ensure the peace and order situation in Hinulid.

Medroso also said he believes in the miracles that happened to many devotees who include Chinese businessmen from Manila.

He said the Chinese businessman dreamt of Amang Hinulid and traveled to this town just to donate a chapel where the devotees hold vigils.

QUADRICENTENNIAL

Laguna town opens Kesong Puti Festival

STA. CRUZ, Laguna—This capital town's first "Kesong Puti" Festival kicked off on Monday with a parade of the native cheese delicacy and people garbed in cheese-decorated vestments.

Among those who joined the parade were the Mutya ng Sta. Cruz beauties, government officials and employees, and members of civic and business groups.

The festival coincides with the nine-day quadricentennial celebration of this town.

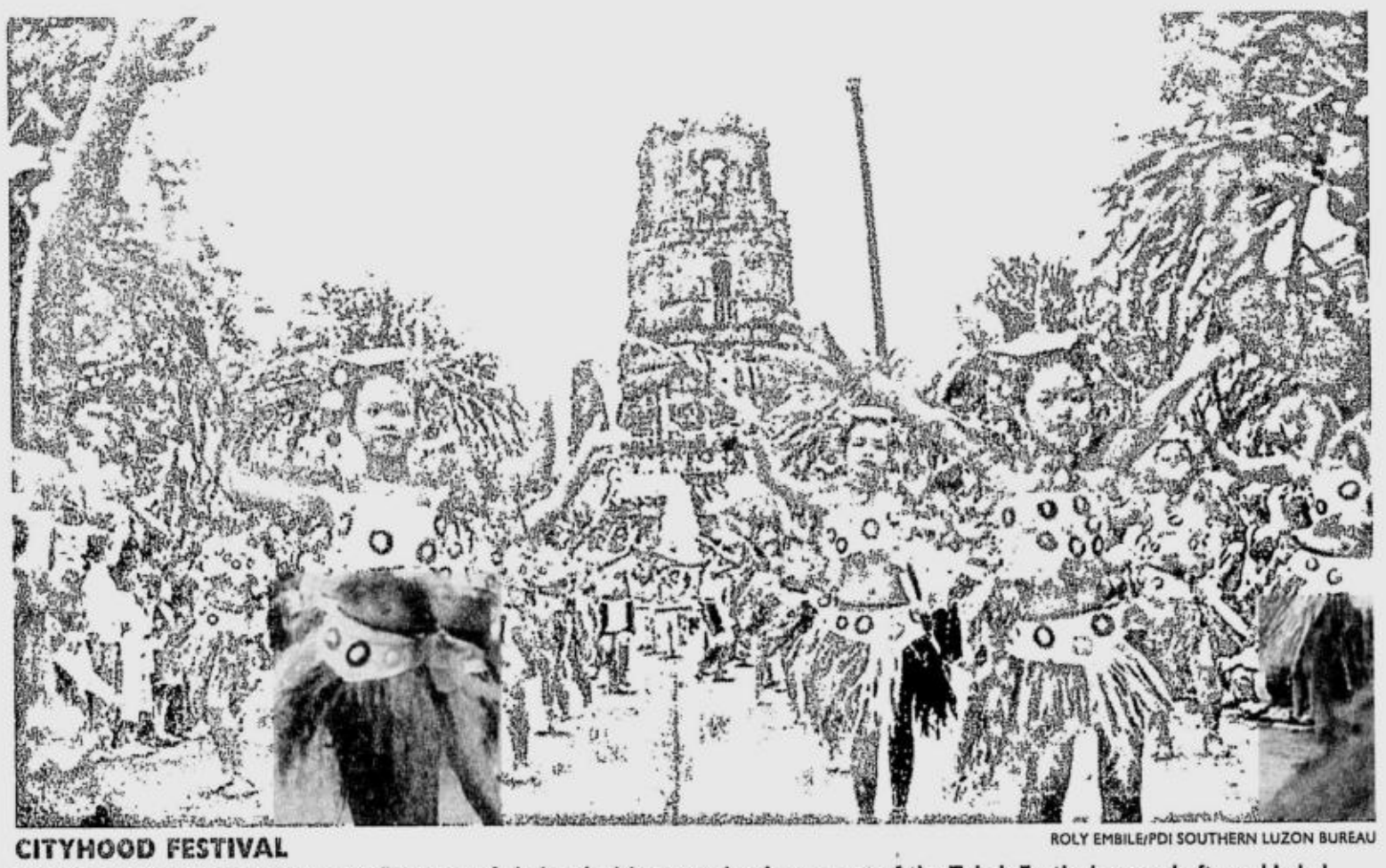
According to historical records, Sta. Cruz was originally part of Lumban town and became a separate municipality in 1602.

A giant replica of the *kesong puti* towered over the town plaza, where various activities took place. *Kesong puti* is made from carabao milk, which is fermented and wrapped in banana leaves.

The product is also made in other municipalities of the province, but its origin is in Santa Cruz. Local producers still practice the traditional (manual) way of making it.

"Fresh *kesong puti* products available during the launching were immediately sold out in the morning. We are inviting producers to display their products at a trade fair without paying for space," Melvin Bonsa, a festival organizer, said.

The nine-day festivity also features different native products of Laguna, like slippers, shoes and sandals, candles, bags, handicraft items and many other products. ***Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***



ROLY EMBILE/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

CITYHOOD FESTIVAL
Tabaco City in Albay celebrates its first year of cityhood with street dancing as part of the Tabak Festival, named after a bladed instrument that the Spaniards in the 16th century mistook for the name of the place.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao and Southern Palawan will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy to Clear	HI35° Lo 22°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 27° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 35° Lo 19°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy to Clear	HI 35° Lo 21°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 21°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 20°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 25°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 26°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 25°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 35° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 34° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 22°
Davao	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/04/03/02

Diwalwal miners get 60-day reprieve

DAVAO CITY—Small-scale miners in Mt. Diwalwal got a temporary reprieve after Mayor Joel Brillantes agreed to suspend the implementation of a cease-and-desist order against the operation of their gold processing plants.

Last week, Brillantes entered into a "gentleman's agreement" with the miners for the lifting of the order for at least 60 days.

Brillantes, however, said he was not changing his stand for the closure of the gold processing plants in Diwalwal. He said the plants should be transferred to another area to avert a big disaster.

Brillantes claimed that the closure order was meant to protect the Naboc River, which serves as water source for the irrigation of rice farms in the lowland areas.

However, the miners feared that the transfer of the gold processing plants would exact a heavy toll on their livelihood.

MINERS barricade the Bincungan Bridge in Carmen, Davao del Norte.
BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

After failing to get a court order to counter the closure order, the miners picketed the Pan-Philippine Highway last week, stalling traffic for several hours.

Interior Secretary Jose Lina, Rep. Prospero Pichay, Governors Jose Caballero of Compostela Valley and Rodolfo del Rosario of Davao del Norte, Environment Undersecretary Horacio Ramos and Presidential Assistant for Mindanao Jesus Dureza met with Brillantes and the miners on Wednesday to defuse the tension.

During the closed-door meeting, Brillantes said he would not compromise the future of the Naboc River but was willing to discuss the plight of the miners.

"They are asking (for the lifting of the CDO) although their status is illegal. With or without the ordinance, that is my position," Brillantes said.

Lina suggested the formation of a technical working committee to draft a long-term solution to the problem.

He said the national government wanted to help the small-scale miners but that the powers of the local government should not be compromised.

Arthur Uy, one of the owners of Blucor Minerals Corp., said they appreciated the mayor's gesture to temporarily lift the closure order.

"It's too short a time for us to transfer the plant, but we will try our best within 60 days to operate it outside of Diwalwal," Uy said.

Franco Tito, spokesperson of the small-scale miners, said he would ask his group to vacate the Bincungan Bridge in Carmen town. ***Dennis Jay C. Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

ROUNDUP

DA to train cops

LEGAZPI CITY—The Department of Agriculture has asked the Philippine National Police to assign personnel to examine the fish caught by fishermen arrested for allegedly engaging in dynamite fishing. Chief Supt. Enrique Galang Jr., Bicol police director, said the policemen would be trained to conduct the examination themselves so they do not have to wait for the findings of experts from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources before they can file charges against suspected illegal fishermen.

Tony Macasinag, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Forestry team robbed

CABARROGUIS, Quirino—Five armed men robbed a German consultant and 11 others of cash and belongings worth P117,000 last Thursday in upland Barangay Tucod here, a belated police report said. The victims were Jaaf de Vleter, consultant of the Philippine-German community forestry project in Quirino, and 11 members of the project monitoring team. They were on a two-vehicle convoy on their way to a project site in Barangay Tucod when five armed men flagged down their vehicles at Sitio Waterfalls. The driver, Demetrio Rimando, said the robbers wielded M-16 and M-14 rifles.

Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Cop nabbed for killing

CABARROGUIS, Quirino—A policeman and his brother, who were wanted for allegedly killing another policeman and his brother in Aglipay town, were arrested in Quirino, Ilocos Sur on Monday, police said. Arrested were PO3 Eduardo Batino, 37, and his brother Rey, 39, a former security guard. They were charged with double murder and double frustrated murder in connection with the death of PO3 John Castillo, 37, and his brother Pablo, 28, a government employee. A local court ordered the arrest of the Batino brothers.

Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Guard kills guard

LIPA CITY—A security guard of the Batangas State University's Lipa City Public College shot a fellow guard for unknown reasons last Thursday. Police said the suspect, Lakson Dinglasan, of Power Point Security Agency and resident of Barangay Bacao, Taysan, Batangas, used his .38 cal. revolver in killing Wilfredo Lucas, of the same agency and resident of Barangay Bungahan, Ibaan, Batangas. Lucas suffered multiple bullet wounds and died on the spot.

Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Abducted agent found

CALACA, Batangas—Villagers found an agent of the interior department bleeding inside his car in Barangay Tamayo here last week. The victim, Felix Cruto, 42, of Barangay Kumintang, Indang, Cavite, and member of the interior department's Task Force Jericho, had two deep stab wounds in the chest and was brought to the Don Juan Mayuga Hospital in Lemery town. Police said Cruto was abducted two days earlier. The victim was blindfolded, handcuffed and stabbed by nine persons in Alfonso, Cavite, while inside his car. When the assailants thought he was dead, they dumped him at Tamayo, police said.

Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Bayan Muna leader slain

ECHAGUE, Isabela—A coordinator of the party-list group Bayan Muna in Isabela was found dead in Ifugao on March 26, six days after he was reported abducted by armed men, members of the Bayan Muna-Cagayan Valley said. Gretchen Valdez, Bayan Muna-Cagayan Valley youth coordinator, said the body of Warlito Nagasao, 46, Bayan Muna coordinator, of Barangay Villa Campo Laud here, was found in Barangay San Juan in Alfonso Lista, Ifugao. Valdez said Nagasao had bullet wounds in the body. Edna Nagasao, 39, Nagasao's wife, said five armed men abducted her husband from their house on March 20.

Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Vets' pension hiked

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—War veterans or their spouses can now get the P500 increase in their monthly pension in July, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes announced last week. This means that the 262,000 surviving veterans and spouses can expect to get P5,000 in monthly pension, according to Irma Belisario of the Office of Public Affairs of the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office. Belisario said the increase should have been applied starting Jan. 1 but was delayed due to lack of funds. She said the PVAO has already found funding sources to cover the increase.

Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Science writers meet

SAN PABLO CITY—The Philippine Science Journalists Association Inc. will hold its first national congress on April 10-12 at the Monte Vista Hot Spring and Conference Resort in Barangay Pansol, Calamba City. Department of Science and Technology executive director Victoria Bartilet said the theme of the congress is "Linking Science and Technology to the Grassroots." The congress aims to support government efforts at developing a science-oriented citizenry.

PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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Chassis Payload	kg	1,220	1,140
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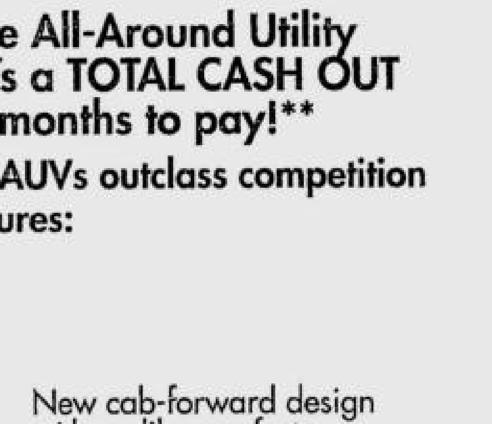

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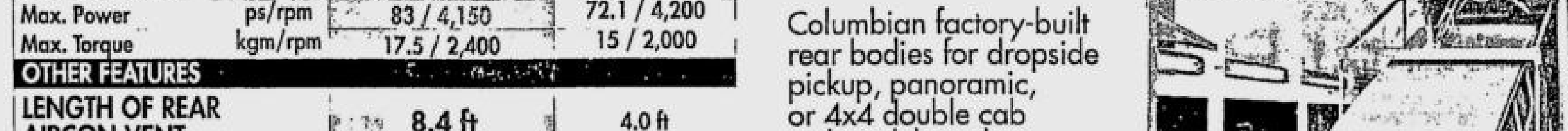

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INQUIRER Northern Luzon
Editor Jun Bandayrel • Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

Is it Voltes V, Viagra or Vergara?

By Vincent Cabreza and Jovelyn Reyes
Baguio City

TAKE a poll today on what the letter "V" that tourists see attached to overpasses, welcome arches and other high-profile government infrastructure projects in Baguio City really mean.

One of the likely appellations—Voltes V, Viagra and Vergara—will certainly crop up. The last, referring to Baguio Mayor Bernardo Vergara, is popular, and the mayor himself acknowledges its reference as something he "allows to propagate."

But Vergara insists that the "V", which is prominently displayed on six pedestrian overpasses, a national highway, four welcome arches, an extended plaza alcove and an often ridiculed concrete pine tree along Session Road, was never meant to be his personal signature for building these structures.

Many politicians would probably react like Vergara when confronted by the letters "E" and "B," which abound in Pasig and Makati cities in Metro Manila.

But if that were the case, a Department of Public Works and Highways official said, then the agency can start looking into these "ambiguous" letter icons off government projects anytime this month.

Nery Bueno, Baguio deputy district engineer, initiated an investigation last week to determine how the "V" found its way to local public works, after the DPWH was confronted about the letter icon in a press conference in March.

"None of these (political markings) was authorized by the government and can be removed," Bueno said, although she stopped short of classifying the markings as graffiti.

Public cynicism

But Bueno acknowledged that these letters reinforced public cynicism that political leaders had been brokering the direction of various government infrastructure projects in the provinces.

Removing these icons, she said, could appease critics and allow the smooth operation of DPWH projects in the provinces.

Bueno said this might be the first such initiative from the DPWH, which had apparently turned a blind eye to the political markings for nearly a decade.

The investigation came on the heels of a DPWH commitment to convert a controversial vehicular underpass project near the junction between Kennon Road and Marcos Highway into an P80-million, four-lane vehicular fly-over.

The project, for which Vergara strongly lobbied through the DPWH in 1999, was opposed by city residents.

Vergara is also supporting the fly-over project, which will be partly financed by P42 million in savings from the P516.95-million Marcos Highway rehabilitation project that was completed late last year.

The proposed fly-over is already drawing flak from residents, who claim that previous DPWH projects were "forced" on Baguio without any public consultation.

Bueno said her investigations have so far failed to unearth the source of the letter icons.

A former unit leader of the DPWH-Baguio's monitoring division, Bueno has been responsible for checking the quality of government projects built in the city by contractors before these are cleared for payment.

"I never saw the letter 'V' in the programs of work for the pedestrian overpasses and other structures. I am certain they were not part of the original design when I cleared them a few years ago. I didn't even notice these Vs until (the Inquirer) brought it up," she said.

THE "V" icon at the People's Park in Baguio City . . .

PHOTOS BY TOOTS SOBERANO

. . . on a pedestrian overpass . . .

. . . and on the controversial concrete pine tree along Session Road.

Prominent icon

In fact, few local officials are certain about how the letter "V" evolved into a prominent Baguio icon.

Residents first discovered a simple letter "V" fixed on the concrete plate that was set in front of a concrete pine tree in 1995.

Years later, a more stylized "V," molded into a split red diamond, was positioned on pedestrian overpasses as these were built between 1997 and 2000.

A local contractor said the icon was originally designed by barangay chairs, who set their cruder "Vs" on waiting sheds until "big time contractors decided that the (letter) was appropriate homage for their patron."

The source did not say who the patron was, although many suspected it was meant for Vergara.

Vergara was Baguio's three-term congressman, whose close association with Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. during the Ramos administration led him to the chairmanship of the influential House committee on public works from 1993 to 1998.

Vergara retained his chairmanship until 2001 when he joined the party of deposed President Joseph Estrada. He eventually ran and won the mayoral race last year, switching political places with Mauricio Domogan, who now represents the lone congressional district of Baguio in the House of Representatives.

For the moment, Vergara said he has adopted "V" as his own and that the icon now meant "vision for everyone."

"We put 'V' (on these government structures) because we are trying to tickle the minds of our officialdom, especially (about) pump (-priming) projects. We (put up) incentive markings on all these completed projects . . . If there's a 'V', that means we all take credit for these projects and not just one agency, one man, one politician. The whole community (should be credited for these projects). That is what I am advocating now," he said.

"*Pilit nang pilit sila . . . kung minsan, naiinis na ako, kaya sige na nga, maniwala na silang* Vergara *iyan para tumigil sila* (Critics keep insisting that 'V' means Vergara, and I am at times annoyed by them, so I just let them do so to keep them quiet)," he said.

The original 'Malacañang of the North'

By Frank Cimatu
Vigan City

THE SYQUIA mansion in Vigan City was just painted white and so the original "Malacañang of the North" was iridescent in the noonday sun.

DAYTOY TI AMIANAN

Eduardo Quirino, a grandson of the late President Elpidio Quirino and who lives in the tower of the mansion, brought me to the northern end and told me that the mansion was modeled after the *bahay kubo* (nipa hut).

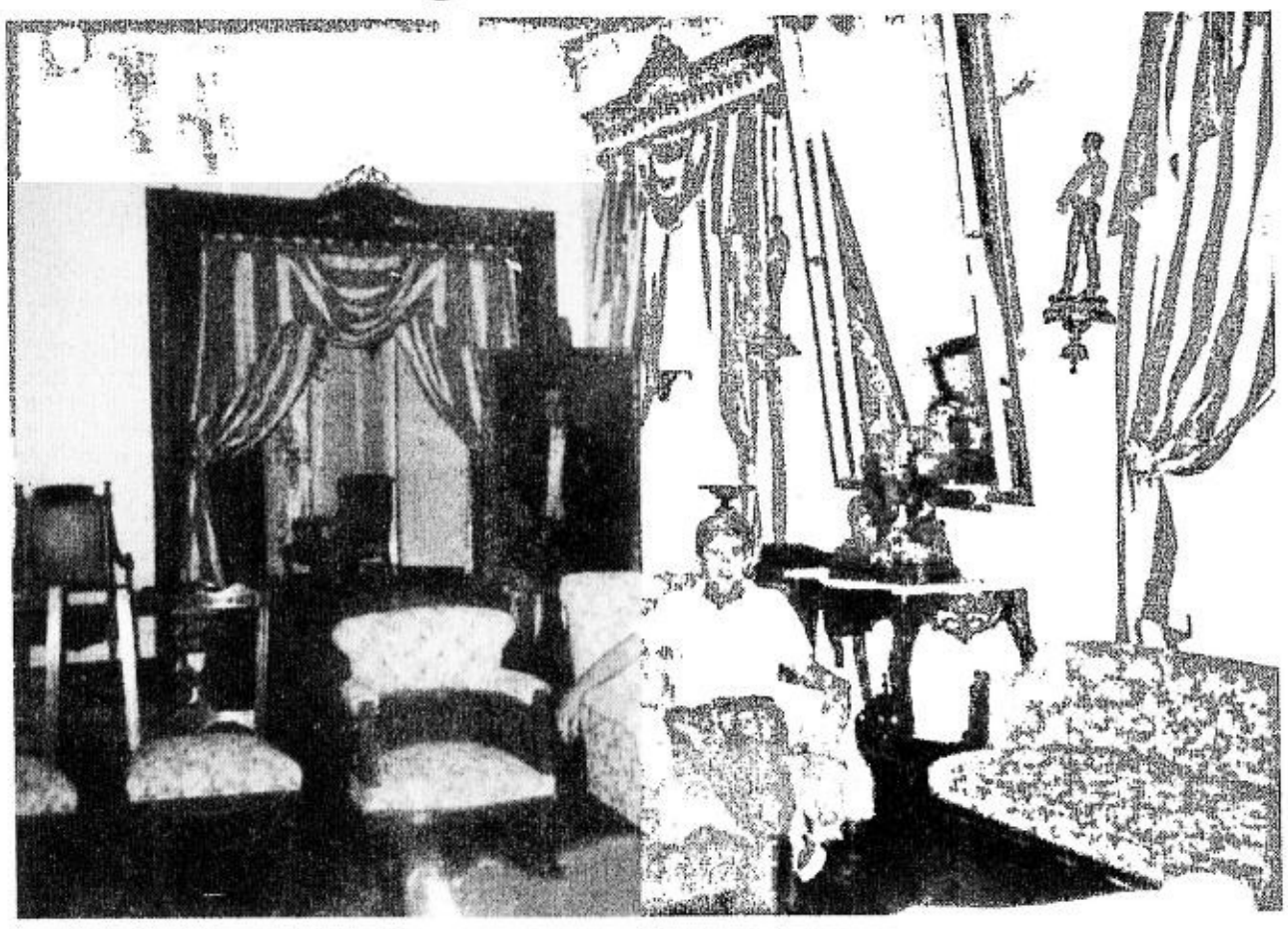
The mansion hardly resembles a nipa hut in almost 2,000 square meters of prime lot in Vigan's Heritage Village. After all, it has seven bedrooms, each big enough to be made into an apartment unit.

Quirino said the mansion was appraised years ago at P100 million, but some of the European bronze figurines in front of the bedrooms cost P400,000 each. Pieces of elegant wooden furniture, forerunners of today's Vigan furniture, are set in every room.

J. Respall, a pupil of the great Ilocano painter Juan Luna, copied the master's "Spolarium" and "Blood Compact" and these paintings are now displayed in the mansion's living room.

Antique Chinese jars and plates are set on the corners. This is, after all, the mansion of the family of the Syquias, hispanized from the Chinese Sy Kia. The house was built in 1830.

One of the paintings in the mansion was that of Gregorio Syquia, who became governor of Ilocos Sur at the turn of the 20th century.



The Syquias were the original bankers of Vigan, as seen by the vault on the ground floor, where the safes of the rich Bigueños were kept. The Syquias later formed the Commercial Bank and Trust Co.

The children of Gregorio Syquia slept in four-poster beds and washed in porcelain bidets. The last addition to the house was made in 1917.

Particularly eerie was the solid iron bathtub, now painted white and set in the white bathroom.

But the Syquia mansion is no mere banker's old palace. It gained prominence because of another Bigueño, former President Quirino, who governed the islands from 1948 to 1953. Quirino married Alicia Syquia, whose painting welcomes anyone coming up the stairs.

Typical of the old Filipino *bahay na bato*, the first floor of the mansion is known as the *zaguan*, which was used to store the family carriages and processional carts. The *zaguan* is made of cinder blocks.

Eduardo Quirino said that during the Japanese occupation, the *zaguan* was filled with cars, including an electric model, but these were all taken by Japanese soldiers.

"Fortunately, the jewelry pieces were hidden by the *mayordoma*," he said. That *mayordoma*, Lola Atang, is the mother of Rusty Ponce, 52, who held the distinction of being the third-generation *mayordomo* of the mansion.

Ponce said the pieces of jewelry were probably hidden in the 120-foot deep Spanish well at the center of the *zaguan*.

The only car now left in the garage is a Chrysler limousine bought by President Quirino after he stepped down from office.

The ground floor has been converted into a museum where President Quirino's memorabilia are kept. The museum includes his office desk, a typewriter, documents and magazines. Gifts received by Quirino from Indonesia, India and the United States were also displayed.

I counted 14 hats, 12 walking canes and 19 pairs of shoes.

Golden 'orinola'

"Where's the golden *orinola*?" someone asked, referring to that costly bedpan that reflected on Quirino's lavish lifestyle. It later turned out to be a figment of a rival politician's imagination.

Old portraits of Quirino, some done by National Artist Fernando Amorsolo, hang on the walls.

President Quirino used to hold office on the first floor. The dining room upstairs was often used as conference room of his Cabinet.

Before another Ilocano, Ferdinand Marcos, came up with his "Malacañang ti Amianan" in Paoay, Ilocos Norte, Quirino had his Syquia Mansion at the heart of Vigan. But when Quirino died in 1956, the mansion slowly fell into disuse.

The upkeep of the house was too much burden to the surviving Syquias and Quirinos who all left town.

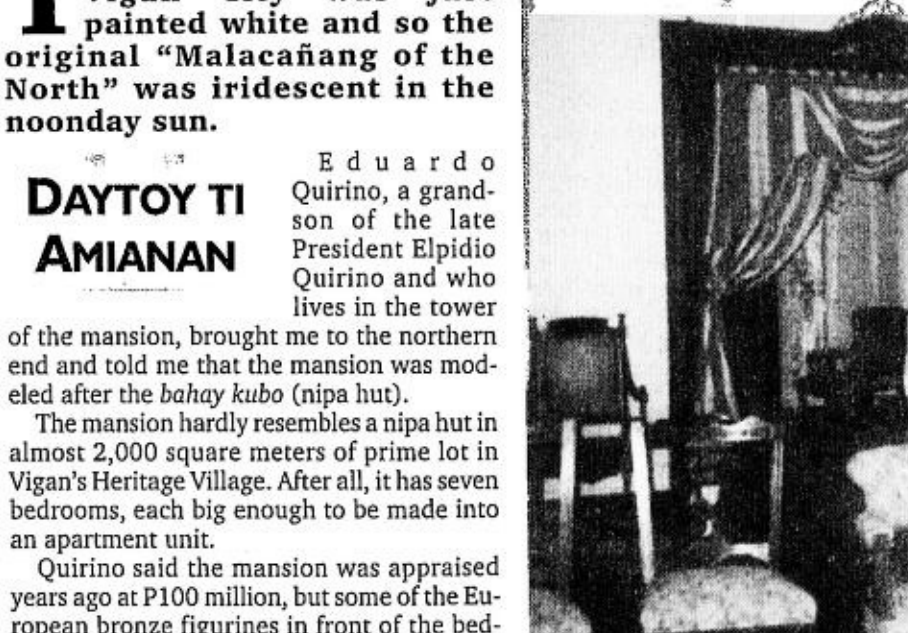
"We had 800 farms but they were all subjected to land reform and the farmers never paid us," said Eduardo Quirino.

Tours are often set in the mansion at P20 for each participant, but Quirino has no heart to stop inquisitive architectural students nipping at the leather covers of the chairs.

On Jan. 18, Ilocos Sur Rep. Eric Singson gave P5 million from his countrywide development fund for the restoration of the Syquia mansion.

Most of the restoration will be "cosmetic" because the house is still strong as it is, Eduardo Quirino said.

EDUARDO Quirino, grandson of the late President Elpidio Quirino, rests at the Syquia Mansion's living room.



THE POSTER bed at the master bedroom.

THE MANSION'S dining room.

PHOTOS BY LEONCIO BALBIN JR.

Meralco blinks, seeks lower rate hike

From page A1

Under Meralco's new petition, customers using 200 kwh would pay 12.2 percent more and those using 300 kwh, 12.8 percent more, said Ivanna de la Peña, head of Meralco's utility economics.

In the previous proposed rates, customers using 200 kwh were supposed to pay 16.4 percent more than their present bill of P1,217.83 while those using 300 kwh were supposed to pay 13.6 percent more than their bill of P1,870.81.

Bigger increase

Meralco said the increase for consumers using 500 kwh to 1,000 kwh a month would be bigger.

In a statement, the Lopez-controlled firm said the revised petition would affect 70 percent of Meralco's 3.7 million residential customers.

Meralco said that rates for customers using 51 kwh to 300 kwh a month would not double as claimed by Bayan.

On its March billing, Meralco charged its customers an average of P6.83 per kwh—P3.40 in basic charge, P3.22 in purchased power adjustment (PPA) and 21 centavos in currency exchange rate adjustment (Cera).

The PPA is the cost of electricity that Meralco pays to the National Power Corp. while the Cera is the result of changes in the peso-dollar rate.

Meralco noted that the March rate of P6.83 per kwh represented an increase of only 8 percent from the P7.39 per kwh that it had wanted in its proposed unbundled rate.

"(It seems that Bayan) compared our proposed rate to our basic rate to arrive at the supposed 116 percent increase," the utility firm said.

Unbundling refers to the breaking down of the total power charges into its component parts—generation, transmission, distribution, supply and other charges.

The Electric Power Industry Reform Act requires the unbundling of power charges to pave the way for full deregulation.

Meralco also denied allegations that it was "sneaking in" an increase higher than the 30-centavo/kwh that it sought in 2000.

ERC Chair Fe Barin said Meralco's unbundled rates would take effect a month after approval. "But whether or not these figures will be approved is another story," Barin said in an interview.

Blow to the poor

Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran said the power rate hike would be a big blow to poor and middle-income families consuming an average of 51 to 300 kilowatts a month.

"The effects of the rate hike on the people's economic life will be tremendous," Beltran said in a statement.

"Even now as the debate on the rate increase rages, companies are already jacking up their own prices to cushion the impact of a power rate increase," he said.

Beltran said that instead of being annoyed at questions about the power rate hike, President Macapagal-Arroyo should put her foot down on the increase sought by Meralco.

"She shouldn't give Meralco the time of day and allow it to charge higher rates at the expense of the consumers," Beltran said.

He pointed out that Meralco still owed the public P22 billion.

"Meralco has the gall to ask for a rate increase when it hasn't even paid debts to the public. It has yet to comply with the decision of the Energy Regulatory Board (the ERC's forerunner) ordering it to rebate P0.18/kwh to its customers," Beltran said.

Elpi Cuna, Meralco director, had said that the firm's current rates were based on 1993 costs while its petition for unbundled rates were based on 2000 figures as provided by law. "Surely there is a big difference between (seven) years," he said.

Meralco data show that the dollar was worth P27.77 in 1993 compared with P51.43 in 2000. The PPA was only P1.87 per kwh in 1993. It rose to P4.07 in 2000.

Israel shells Ramallah; Sharon seeks Arafat . . .

From page A1

traditional birth grotto. A 60-year-old Palestinian security guard was killed by machine gun fire.

Israel widened its five-day military offensive against Palestinian militants responsible for a wave of anti-Israeli terror attacks, including six suicide bombings in the past six days.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, a moderate, said the offensive would last about three to four weeks. He is the first senior Israeli official to give a timeframe.

Sharon earlier said the campaign would only end when Palestinian militias were crushed.

In the town of Beituniya next to Ramallah, Israeli tanks and helicopter gunships shelled the Palestinian Preventive Security Service headquarters in an all-night assault, after about 400 people inside refused to surrender.

Jibril Rajoub, head of the Preventive Security Service, said that at least 20 people inside were wounded.

Rajoub, who was outside the compound, said he had ordered his men not to give up even though the situation was "very, very, very bad."

Israeli media reports said the main target of the assault was Marwan Barghouti, a commander of Palestinian gunmen in the West Bank, and that the military believed other top Palestinian fugitives were also hiding in the compound.

There were no signs of life at daybreak. An Israeli soldier in a tank said Palestinian ambulances were not allowed to approach the compound.

The flames had ebbed, leaving two of the buildings in the compound smoldering, blackened wrecks, one with a shattered roof. Holes were visible in the walls of several other buildings in the compound.

Soldiers stopped the assault briefly several times to renew demands that those inside surrender.

In a statement, the Israeli military said many "leaders responsible,for the recent wave of terrorism" were holed up in the building.

Also Tuesday, Israeli tanks moved into Bethlehem from two directions and exchanged fire with roving bands of Palestinian gunmen.

An Israeli helicopter gunship hovering over Manger Square exchanged fire with about a dozen gunmen near the Church of the Nativity.

The gunmen also came under fire from Israeli tanks deployed some distance downhill from the square.

Israeli forces have entered biblical Bethlehem several times in the past 18 months of fighting, but had kept a distance from the Church of the Nativity, one of Christianity's holiest shrines.

Palestinian gunmen have frequently used the area around the church as a refuge, with the expectation that Israel would try to avoid fighting near the shrine.

Outside Bethlehem, an Israeli soldier was shot and killed by a Palestinian sniper, the military said. The Israeli military said forces in Bethlehem were searching for suspected terrorists and weapons. ***AP***

RP: 'We're neutral . . .

From page A1

other day.

"That's not exactly quite analogous. It's not at all similar. It's more complicated. Mr. Arafat is not considered an Abu Sabaya (the Abu Sayyaf leader) or what. It's entirely a different situation," Tiglao said.

But both Guingona, the concurrent foreign secretary, and Tiglao agreed on one thing: The Philippines supports the United Nations resolution issued by the UN Security Council on Saturday.

"We are supportive of the United Nations resolution, which is asking Israel to withdraw from the Ramallah compound and town and (negotiate) for peace," Guingona said in a chance interview.

Tiglao said: "There were some news reports that . . . we support Israel. That's not accurate. We support the UN resolution calling for the withdrawal of Israeli troops which have laid siege to Arafat's compound."

He said the Philippine position was based on its own "broad foreign policy" and from "detailed reports" about the events in Israel and Palestine. "It's a very complicated foreign policy issue and we feel from detailed studies and evaluation that we (must) support the UN resolution," Tiglao said.

The siege of the Ramallah headquarters of the Palestinian Authority has heightened tensions in the Middle East, with the aggressive Israeli military operation failing to stop Palestinian suicide bombings. In March alone, some 200 Palestinians and 100 Israeli died in the conflict.

With about 50,000 Filipino workers in Israel, government agencies have reactivated a "text brigade" as the primary means of communication between embassy officials and community leaders, Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said.

The brigade, first put together when the suicide bombings started 18 months ago, has helped create what Sto. Tomas called a "very strong network" within the workers' community.

Nine out of every 10 Filipino workers in Israel own a mobile phone and, like other Filipinos, have a passion for texting—that is, using the short-messaging service of their cell phones. Fixed phone lines are difficult to come by in workers' households and Filipino groups in Israel.

Overseas Workers Welfare Administration chief Wilhelm Soriano said Filipino communities had also been holding regular meetings, to discuss what to do and how to help one another in case of emergency.

Soriano said the Philippine Embassy in Tel Aviv had already declared Alert Level 2, which advises Filipino workers to avoid crowded places such as bus stations, restaurants and movie houses.

"We just do not want to put them at risk. They should be careful . . . (That's why) there are restrictions on their movements," Soriano said in a phone interview.

Philippine Overseas Employment Administration chief Rosalinda Baldoz said that despite the mounting tension, the country continued to deploy Filipinos to Israel. She said about 35,000 of the 50,000 Filipino workers there were documented. There are no Filipinos in the Palestinian West Bank, the OWWA has reported.

Baldoz said it was up to the Israeli Embassy to ban the deployment or issue a travel advisory against going to Israel. Thus far, the embassy has allowed Filipino tourists to join Holy Land tours which are popular during summer.

"It's an unconventional war . . . limited to certain areas," Sto. Tomas said. ***With a report from Blanche Rivera***

US vets back to Bataan after 60 years

From page A1

national terrorism born of hate, ignorance, fanaticisim, corruption and poverty," said Ricciardone, a son of a US Navy veteran who fought in the south Pacific during the war.

A contingent of US troops has been camped in Western Mindanao since January, training the Philippine military in counter-terrorism measures aimed at wiping out the Abu Sayyaf bandits in Basilan.

US Senators Daniel Inouye, a Democrat from Hawaii, and Ted Stevens, a Republican from Alaska, gave a salute and presented wreaths for those killed.

The two legislators—later briefed on the Balikatan 02-1 training exercise—are on an Asian tour, with Manila as their last stop.

As Ricciardone finished by thanking the veterans for their inspiring examples of courage, a standing ovation came from the crowd of more than 100 gathered under white tents.

"I know my country is committed here because of the war that is going on all over the world with terrorism and I support my country . . . no matter where they go. We did then, we do now," said 80-year-old Richard Gordon, a retired US Army major and survivor of the Death March.

Battling Bastards

Gordon and 13 other members of the so-called "Battling Bastards of Bataan" are on a two-week trip accompanied by friends and family to revisit the painful markers of their ordeal.

"Many of us visiting here today will not return. Time and age and all that goes with it is catching up with us," said Gordon who wore a "barong."

"They fought a tenacious and highly trained enemy, with weapons from World War I, many of which failed to function," Gordon said of the US soldiers on Bataan.

"Their enemy showed them no mercy. That man could be that inhumane to a fellow man is the real story of Bataan."

"I was deeply touched. They told our stories," said Col. Rafael Estrada, a Filipino veteran who also survived the Death March.

The Philippines, then a US colony, was among the first targets of Japanese invasion after the bombing of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. Overwhelmed by the onslaught, American commanders decided to retreat to the Bataan peninsula, 50 km west of Manila, to wait for reinforcements that never came.

With food and ammunition dwindling, the Americans and Filipinos lasted until April 9, 1942, when their commander decided to surrender to Japanese troops.

The Japanese forced an estimated 70,000 Filipino and American soldiers on a deadly march to a camp in Capas, Tarlac.

Only 54,000 survived. Many were randomly killed, sometimes beheaded, or died from fatigue and illness.

Three months in the concentration camp decimated tens of thousands more before the remainder were placed on "hell ships" and sent to labor camps in Manchuria and elsewhere. The Japanese occupied the Philippines from 1942 until the war ended in 1945.

Fullerton, of Anaheim, California, said his determination to stay alive—"a certain amount of defiance that we weren't going to let them get the best of us"—kept his mind focused.

Even when he was put in charge of recording the deaths at the camp—he logged more than 1,500 names—he refused to lose hope.

Being back in the Philippines brought back painful memories, but Fullerton said he would keep retelling his experiences.

"We don't want this story to die—we want it alive. That's why I'm here," he said. ***Reports from AP and Reuters***

Yorac on Swiss edict: 'It's not yet in force'

From page A1

appeal," PCGG Chair Haydee Yorac said yesterday. "An appeal immediately suspends the effectivity of the judgment. We have until April 12 to file that appeal."

Yorac said this meant that the Swiss deposits of former Energy Minister Geronimo Velasco, his secretary Carmencita de Borja Clavecilla, and his nephew Alfredo de Borja—amounting to some $17 million—had "not yet been dissipated."

Yorac's words of reassurance did not calm lawyer Rod Domingo, who represents victims of human rights abuses under martial law. Domingo said that the underlying implication of the Feb. 6 order of Zurich district attorney and investigating magistrate Dieter Jann, reiterated in his order of March 12, is that even the funds of other Marcos cronies in Switzerland could also be "unfrozen" by Jann.

PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza said it was not as simple as that. But he admitted that other Marcos cronies could indeed try to ask Switzerland to lift the freeze on their assets.

"There will always be efforts by other persons associated with the Marcoses to try to unfreeze their own accounts," Carranza said.

"Since we came in, we have been on top of these efforts, which is not to say that we have always blocked those efforts because that is not our decision to make. That is the decision of Swiss attorneys to make," he said.

"But we're taking action, not just with respect to the Velasco account, but also all the other accounts that are frozen," he said.

Asked if there was a danger that other crony funds could also be unblocked, Carranza said, "Not really. Not all the cronies."

He added that the case of Velasco, Clavecilla and De Borja was "one instance where we tried to meet them (the Swiss requirements), but the lifting was done anyway and we (will) try to reverse (the order)," he said.

The latest Swiss fiasco prompted Akbayan party-list Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales, herself a martial law victim, to say she was filing a resolution in the House seeking an investigation into the lifting of the 16-year-old freeze.

"We would try to zero in the obstructions over a period of 16 years, of why no single case has been won by the PCGG in the local courts," she added.

Rosales acknowledged that the PCGG's performance through the years has been wanting, but said she was against its abolition.

"I am actually for the strengthening of the PCGG," she said, as she reiterated her support for Yorac and her team.

Domingo also pressed for an investigation. "There should be an investigation of the PCGG, including the past PCGG commissioners," he said.

In Malacañang, presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said the President was reserving her comment on the newest problem facing the PCGG until she received a "complete report" from Yorac.

"We're still waiting for a complete report from Chairman Yorac . . . It's too early to conclude anything (such as) a collusion or some kind of problem in following up (the Marcos cases)," Tiglao said.

He denied that the administration had lost interest in recovering the Marcos wealth, and said the appointment of Yorac and other PCGG commissioners signaled the Macapagal administration's political will to pursue the Marcos cases.

"The reputation of Haydee Yorac as a very persistent, very determined and very committed official is well known," he said.

"As we have emphasized, the President has given her almost complete powers to pursue these cases. And she has full confidence in Chairman Yorac," he added.

Yorac said the PCGG believes that Jann's orders of Feb. 6 and March 12 were "incorrect."

"We will file the appeal of course (in Switzerland)," she said.

She said that the Philippine government would not raise new grounds in its suit before the Zurich Court of Appeals. "We will just point out the portions of the decision, the reasoning that we did not agree with," Yorac said.

She emphasized that the PCGG had already filed forfeiture petitions against at least five cronies, including Velasco, Clavecilla and De Borja. The other cronies are Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez, and Fe Roa Gimenez and Ignacio Gimenez. ***With reports from Dona Pazzibugan and Christine Avendano***

Doc in sex case . . .

From page A1

high court's decision of March 6, "so we don't know what's the basis of the decision."

Singson told the INQUIRER in a phone interview that the defense would file a motion for reconsideration, and noted that it had 15 days after receipt of the decision to do so.

He said he was puzzled why it was taking so long for their copy to arrive when the complainant, Juliet Yee, had already received hers. "Normally, we should be getting our copies at the same time," he said in Taglish. "We don't know why the other party received its copy earlier."

But Reynaldo Llego, counsel for Yee, said he could not believe that the defense had yet to receive a copy of the document.

He said some lawyers could make it appear that they still had no copy of a court decision, especially if it was adverse to their clients.

"I am not saying that (Jacutin's lawyer) is doing this," Llego said. "But it is possible for any lawyer with connections at the post office to look at the contents of a decision sent by mail and not officially receive it. This would give him more time to draft his appeal."

Llego also said that while the defense could still file a motion for reconsideration, "it would be impossible" for the decision to be reversed "unless Dr. Jacutin can find a new argument, which I doubt."

He said this was the context of his earlier statement that the decision of the high court was final.

Yee accused Jacutin of sexually harassing her when she, then a 22-year-old nursing graduate, was applying for a post at the City Health Office in 1996.

The case was filed before the Sandiganbayan.

On Nov. 5, 1999, the Sandiganbayan's fourth division found Jacutin guilty of the charge and sentenced him to six months in jail.

Jacutin immediately went to the Supreme Court and filed a petition for review. But the tribunal subsequently upheld the Sandiganbayan's decision.

Singson expressed surprise at this newspaper's treatment of the report on the tribunal's decision.

"This case seems too political," he told the INQUIRER in Taglish. "It was unprecedented, (meriting a) banner headline in the INQUIRER when there are many bigger cases around. It looks like Dr. Jacutin's enemies are heavyweight politicians."

He also noted that the report on Jacutin even eclipsed that on young actor Rico Yan, who died suddenly last week.

Llego said, however, that there was nothing political in the sexual harassment case against Jacutin, only that Yee was brave enough to file charges against a government official.

Prof. Maureen C. Pagaduan, executive director of the Quezon City-based Women's Legal Bureau Inc., lauded the Supreme Court for its decision.

"That the story was headlined by the INQUIRER is itself a milestone," Pagaduan said in a statement. "It speaks of the increasing recognition that sexual harassment should be a national concern, although it is still generally trivialized. This stems in part from a lack of understanding of the gravity of sexual harassment and its dire effects on both victims and society."

Pagaduan noted that few cases of sexual harassment—"unwanted sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other visual, verbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature"—were being reported despite its being "a daily experience of hundreds of women in different places in the country."

"Re-victimization in the justice system is a common complaint of many women victims of gender-based violence," Pagaduan added. "Juliet Yee's case sends an encouraging message, but it should not make us believe that the justice system has discarded its prejudices against women. There is still so much to be done."

Eden Banaag, supervising personnel specialist of the Civil Service Commission in Cagayan de Oro, told the INQUIRER that a decision on Jacutin's dismissal from the service had been reached but was still being finalized. ***Reports from Grace Cantal-Albasin and Allan A. Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

'Poet of Philippine music' dies

From page A1

Born on April 30, 1910, Celerio acquired his street smarts growing up in the slums of Tondo, Manila. He took two semesters of violin at the University of the Philippines College of Music, but a fall from a tree that resulted in a broken wrist ended a promising career as a violinist.

Gifted with a magical grasp of Tagalog and its intricate but folksy verse tradition (his father was from Bulacan and his mother from Laguna), Celerio turned to writing lyrics and wrote some 4,000 songs.

So when he was named National Artist in 1997, Celerio was proclaimed "poet of Philippine music."

The stress on the literary side of his genius was understandable because although he was also a gifted musician, he was known more for the lyrics that provided the robust body and the sublime sheen to the best music not only of San Pedro but also of National Artists Antonio Buenaventura and Ernani Cuenco, Santiago Suarez, Restie Umali and Juan Silos Sr.

Celerio wrote the lyrics of many of the most memorable songs in 20th century folk Filipino music. He wrote nearly all of Suarez's *balitaw* and *harana*, such as "Dungawin Mo, Hirang" (Look out your Window, My Love) and "Caprichosa" (Woman of Caprice).

He also wrote the lyrics of such Tagalog standards as Umali's "Saan Ka Man Naroroon" (Wherever You Are), "Lagi Kitang Naaalala" (You are Always on My Mind), and Cuenco's "Gaano Kita Kamahal" (How Much I Love You), the latter arguably the most frequently played recessional in church weddings.

Playful, whimsical and street-smart, Celerio was perhaps the inventor of the novelty music, crafting the lyrics of many of Silos' most memorable songs. These include "Waray-waray" (the theme song of the comedy starring Nida Blanca as an Eastern Visayas hoyden), "Alembong" (The Flirt), "Ikaw Kasi" (It's Your Fault), "No Money, No Honey," and "Basta't Mahal Kita" (As Long as I Love You).

He also wrote the lyrics of Tony Maiguez's "Pitong Gatang" (Seven Gantas), Cuenco's "Kalesa" (Carriage) and George Canseco's "Pipit" (Small Bird).

He courted the ire of censors and moralists for "Nabasag ang Banga" (The Jar Was Broken), a playful song rife with sexual innuendoes.

Unique among musicians, Celerio was perhaps the first and only multimedia musician.

He achieved renown by writing in the 1930s the theme song of "Dalagang Bukid" (Country Lass) starring Rogelio de la Rosa and Rosa del Rosario, the first blockbuster in Philippine cinema.

In the 1963 Famas Awards, he was cited for best theme song for the movie "Sapagkat Kami ay Tao Lamang" (Because We are Only Human).

He was also an assiduous collector of Filipino palindromes and sayings, publishing collections of these.

His raid of Filipino indigenous culture climaxed in the lyrics he provided to folk dance melodies such as "Pandangguhan," "Cariñosa," "Subli" and "Maglalatik."

But Celerio will perhaps be best known for the lyrics of a jaunty Christmas carol originally titled "Maligayang Pasko at Manigong Bagong Taon" (Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year).

That song became "Ang Pasko ay Sumapit," perhaps the carol that serves as the Christmas companion of any Filipino from womb to tomb.

A crowd-pleaser, Celerio also landed in the Guinness Book of World Records for his uncanny talent of making music out of such unmusical media as the saw and the leaf.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

2 games to kick off PBL 20th season today

GAMES TODAY (Makati Coliseum)
4:15 p.m.—John-O Juzz vs Ana
6:15 p.m.—ICTSI-La Salle vs Blu

THE PHILIPPINE Basketball League's 20th season begins today at the Makati Coliseum, with emphasis on former players who have become big-league stars highlighting the opening ceremonies at 3:30 p.m.

Newcomer John-O Juzz battles Ana Freezers at 4:15 p.m., followed by the 6:15 tussle between ICTSI-La Salle and Blu Sun Power.

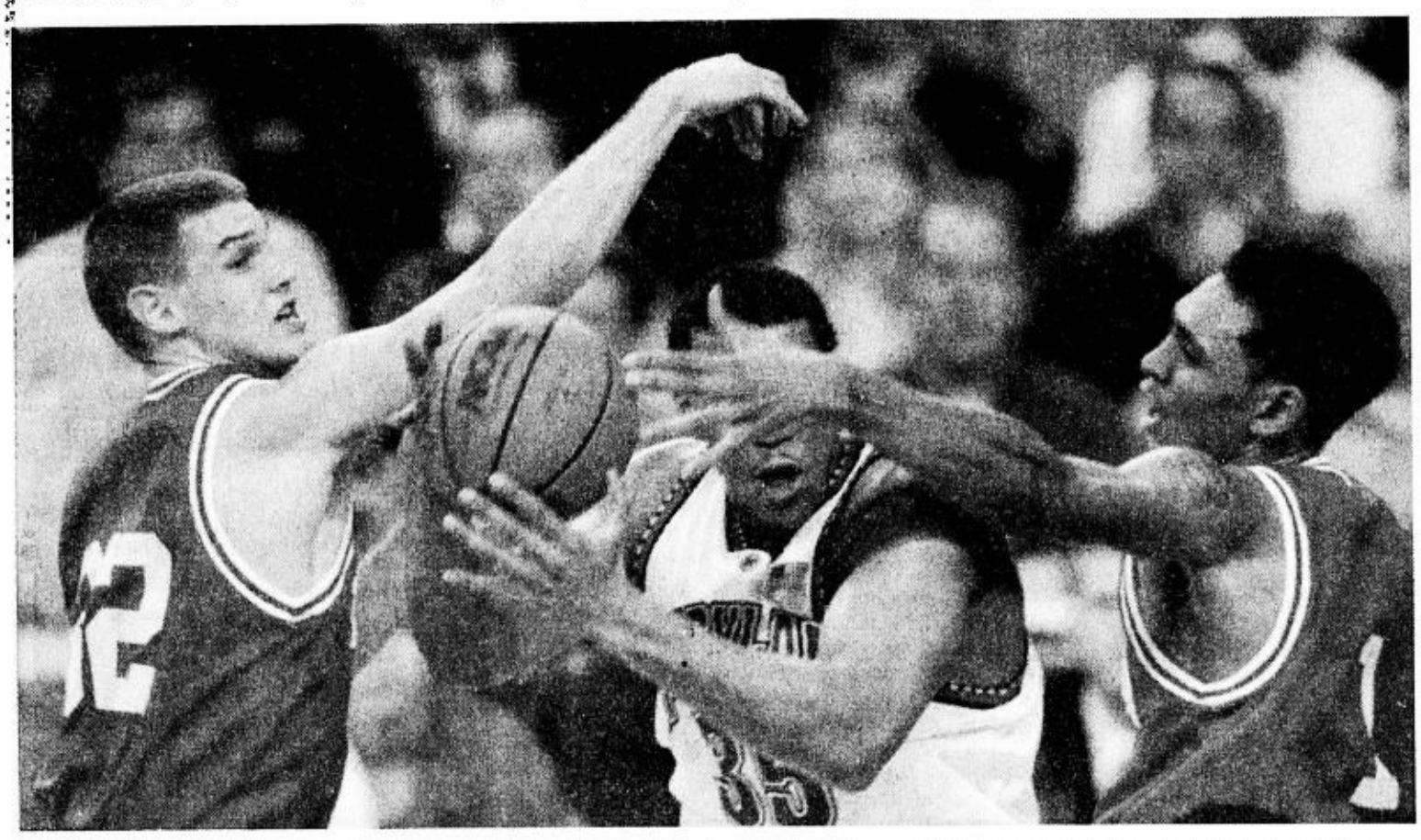
A trilogy documentary produced by the PBL Production Staff under director by Al Neri will feature the PBL's achievements through the years.

PBA stars Alvin Patrimonio, Jerry Codiñera and Jojo Lastimosa, among others, will tell of their struggles while still playing in the PBL.

The second act will feature the PBL's top products last season who made it to the PBA this year like Yancy de Ocampo, Ren-Ren Ritualo, Jojo Manalo, Migs Noble and Chester Tolomia, among others.

The third and last act will be focus on the perceived new stars—Shark's Ismael Junio and Clarence Cole, John-O Juzz' Ranidel de Ocampo and ICTSI-La Salle's Mike Cortez.

"What we want to show is both the past and future of the league," said PBL Commissioner Chino Trinidad. "For the first time in PBL history, I'm proud that a national team will be parading in the opening ceremony together with our PBL member squads."



INDIANA forward Kyle Hornsby (32) and teammate Jared Jeffries (1) put pressure on Maryland's Lonny Baxter (35) during first half play in the NCAA championship game at the Georgia Dome yesterday in Atlanta. Maryland won, 64-52. AP

Maryland wins 1st 'NC' title

ATLANTA—Juan Dixon's smile grew wider and wider, his clapping faster and faster as the final seconds ticked away. When the buzzer sounded, he took the ball and heaved it high toward the roof of the Georgia Dome before falling to the floor in the arms of fellow senior Lonny Baxter.

The Maryland Terrapins had done it.

With Dixon and Baxter leading the way, they won their first national championship with a 64-52 victory Monday night, ending Indiana's magical tournament run as well as years of disappointment within their own program.

"I feel like I'm dreaming right now because I'm part of a national championship team," said Dixon, the All-American guard who snapped out of a scoring drought just in time. "It's a great feeling. I'm speechless."

This was the Terrapins' first appearance in a national championship game and the senior-laden lineup came through over the final 9:42, pulling away from the Hoosiers to become the fourth straight No. 1 seed to win it all.

Coach Gary Williams guided his alma mater from the depths of probation 13 years ago to the pinnacle of college basketball. He took over just three years after the cocaine-induced death of star Len Bias, inheriting a program wracked by scandal.

"Having played at Maryland, coming back at a time I hate to even think about because there was so much mistrust, so much doubt about the place of the basketball program at the University of Maryland," said Williams, who let his famous intensity melt long enough to celebrate with his players. "We had to work all those things out before we could even think about having a good basketball team." ***AP***

Sta. Lucia subdues Alaska

By June Navarro

GAME TOMORROW (Makati Coliseum)
6 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs Red Bull

STA. Lucia Realty subdued Alaska, 80-71, last night to create a five-way tie in the middle of the standings in the PBA Samsung Governors Cup at the Philsports Arena.

Victor Thomas had another spectacular double-double performance, coming up with 34 points and 11 rebounds, to lead the Realtors to their fourth win in eight outings.

The Realtors tied their victims, Federal Express, Hapee-RP Team and San Miguel Beer at 4-4.

"We are slowly getting into the groove. I just hope it gets even better on our succeeding games," said Sta. Lucia coach Norman Black, minutes after the Realtors registered their first back-to-back victories of the season.

Mark Davis finished with 14 points, an output good enough to complement the all-around performance of Thomas.

Paolo Mendoza, Chris Tan and Gerald Francisco also sparkled but it was the feats of Francis Adriano and Marvin Ortiguerra, which did the Aces in.

Adriano made timely shots down the stretch while Ortiguerra converted crucial baskets along the way as the Realtors frustrated the debut of James Head, the Aces' replacement for the ailing Muntrelle Dobbins.

Head, a 6-foot-7 bruiser who saw action for the Flint Fuze in the now-defunct Continental Basketball Association, led a brief uprising in the final minutes and finished with 24 points.

Thomas tied the entire output of the Aces in the first quarter as the Realtors sped to a 23-13 advantage.

The scores:

STA. LUCIA 80—Thomas 34, Davis 14, Mendoza 8, Adriano 7, Ortiguerra 6, Tan 5, Francisco 4, Falcasantos 2, Belano 0.

ALASKA 71—Head 24, Riley 23, Santos 12, Allado 8, Wallkvist 2, Lastimosa 2, Arigo 0, Gahol 0.

Quarters: 23-13, 39-33, 59-54, 80-71

He can outjump Jordan

6-foot-21/2 Robinson reinforces Spring Oil

By Roy Luarca

JEREMY Robinson, an explosive scorer and a slam dunker, will reinforce Spring Cooking Oil when it represents the Philippines in the Asian Basketball Confederation Champions Cup slated in Kuala Lumpur from April 28-May 5.

The 6-foot-2 ½ Robinson, who can outjump the 6-foot-6 Michael Jordan with his 45-inch vertical leap (Jordan's 38 inches), will return to the country next week to join the Cooking Oil Experts' practices before they leave for Malaysia on April 26.

Described by player agent Danny Espiritu as "better than Rob Parker," the 24-year-old Robinson will join seven-time PBA best import Bobby Parks and 6-foot-7 Erwin Luna, formerly of Shell and now a Purefoods practice player, in the Spring Cooking Oil roster.

A former 1st team All-America, Robinson saw action for University of Hawaii in the NCAA where he set a record by scoring 15 points in six minutes.

Robinson, who'll take over the slot of Hamsa Jihad, has seen action in European leagues, posting averages of 21 points, 6 assists and 5 rebounds in Italy and 29 points, 3 assists and 3 rebounds in Spain where he played for the touring Harlem team.

Spring Cooking Oil team manager Bert Pulido and head coach Tito Palma have also enlisted the services of College of St. Benilde hotshot Sunday Salvacion to boost the Cooking Oil Experts' chances in Asia's premier tournament for champion club teams.

Spring Cooking Oil, jointly owned by Herbert de Jesus and national shooter Tac Padilla, topped the Southeast Asia Basketball Association Champions Cup held in Cebu City last month to qualify for the ABC tournament.

Formed only last year, the Cooking Oil Experts are the reigning National Open titlists. They also topped the Danny Espiritu Cup and the Mayor Atienza Cup.

Spring Cooking Oil is being supported by Easy Mart of Benny Wong, Action Holidays Tour Corp. of Paul Lim So and Oishi in its ABC stint.

SCRIBES' ACCIDENT COVERAGE
The Philippine Sportswriters Association is now provided with free year-round Personal Accident coverage, courtesy of Pioneer Insurance, the official insurer of the Philippine National Athletes. The contract was signed by (seated, from left) PSA President Bert Cuevas, Pioneer Insurance chair Ernesto Chan and Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit. Witnessing the signing are (from left) Romeo Ribaño (POC secretary general), Maricris Zapata (Pioneer Insurance Vice President for Sales and Intermediary Development) and Steve Hontiveros (POC first vice president).

Excellence

MICHAEL "Schumi" Schumacher seemed destined to retain the Formula 1 crown he won back-to-back from 2000.

Schumi, who gets $40 million a year driving a Ferrari up to 2005, survived an eight-car pile-up in the season opener in Melbourne to win the Australian Grand Prix on March 3.

In Kuala Lumpur on March 17, the 33-year-old Schumi figured in a two-car collision just seconds from flag-off and fell last from his pole. Amazingly, the German crawled back from 21st to third—behind winner Ralf (his brother) and Juan Pablo Montoya, the fiery Colombian.

In that race—the second of a 17-leg feast for the season—the nose of Schumi's car got clipped at the first turn by Montoya, driving a BMW Williams. Next thing he knew, Montoya was being sent to the pitlane for a drive-through penalty, costing him valuable time. His runner-up finish was a testament to his driving skills.

On Monday in Sao Paulo, Schumi, born on Jan. 3, 1969, won the Brazilian Grand Prix. Again, he did it with drama.

This time, it was Schumi's turn to "damage" Montoya's BMW in a virtual repeat of their collision in Sepang; same folks, different results.

It happened going into the second bend, when Schumi, also the Formula 1 champion in 1994 and 1995 aboard a Benetton, was trying to grab the lead from Montoya, the pole sitter.

In the scramble for leadership, the 26-year-old Montoya seemed to have braked late while speeding into the corner. He hit Schumi's rear or something, sending Montoya's front wing flying into bits of debris.

Montoya was forced to a pit stop for repairs. He next did a Schumacher—almost. He climbed back from 20th to finish 5th, giving him 2 points and retaining his hold of third overall behind brothers Schumi and Ralf.

Montoya blamed Schumi for the incident.

"I thought he was a fair guy to race with but he's definitely not," said Montoya, Colombia's Athlete of the Year for 2001.

Montoya rued the fact that he was penalized in Kuala Lumpur. He implied that Schumi should have been penalized, too.

"Last week, I took his front wing, even though I gave him room, and I got penalized," said Montoya. "This week, he shuts the door in front of me...I was even closer and here we go. Who pays? I pay again and it just keeps going."

Schumi played down the incident.

"It was an exciting first two corners," said Schumi, whose decade of Formula 1 action is filled with controversies. "I have to say Juan Pablo raced very well."

Schumi said he didn't feel anything when the collision happened.

"I don't actually know what happened," he said. "I moved over to the left...I didn't feel anything. I just suddenly saw him dropping back. I don't know what may have made him unhappy."

Some say Michael Schumacher, the winner of 55 races in 165 Grands Prix contested, is Formula 1's fair-haired boy, the one they treat with kid gloves.

I don't know. What I know is, he's a damn good driver. I've seen him race in the flesh three times since 1999. I know that's not enough to gauge his true worth.

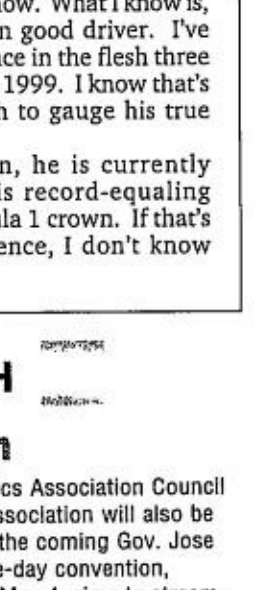
But then, he is currently chasing his record-equaling fifth Formula 1 crown. If that's not excellence, I don't know what is.

SPORTSWATCH

Patafa schedules convention

BESIDES playing host to the Asian Amateur Athletics Association Council meeting, the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association will also be holding its national convention in connection with the coming Gov. Jose Sering Invitational Memorial Cup May 1-4. The one-day convention, scheduled on the final day of four-day conclave on May 4, aims to streamline Patafa's regional organizational structure in line with its talent identification program at the grass-root level, according to association president Go Teng Kok. The vacancies are the regional directorships in Cagayan Valley and Eastern Visayas. Invited to attend are regional directors Rosito Andaya of Ilocos Region, Ronald Samson (Central Luzon), Mario Pajarillo (Southern Luzon), Gov. Luis Villafuerte (Bicol), Mayor Marcelo Aguirre (Western Visayas), Felix Tiukinhoy (Central Visayas), Ranulfo Despalo (Western Mindanao), Cong. Miguel Zubiri (Northern Mindanao), Belen Kempis (Southern Mindanao), Eugene Tan (Central Mindanao), Pedro Mendoza (Cordillera Autonomous Region) and Norma Sharief (Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao).

Gerry may get rematch in June


PEÑALOSA

WBC international superflyweight champion Gerry Peñalosa may get his mandated rematch with reigning world champion Masamori Tokuyama in June should the planned defense by the Japan-born North Korean against Katsushige Kawashima doesn't push through in North Korea. WBC president Jose Sulaiman informed Peñalosa's manager, lawyer Rudy Salud, that he was "contacting the people in Japan immediately" regarding their commitment to stage the fight in North Korea since it was only because of this, that the WBC agreed to allow Tokuyama a second title defense. Sulaiman was responding to a fax from Salud, stating that at the convention in Pattaya, Thailand last year, the WBC approved a second title defense by Tokuyama, following his controversial victory over Peñalosa last September, only on condition that the fight be held in North Korea.

Formula race roars off April 6

THE 2002 Asian Formula Challenge, Asia's first region-wide championship for Formula 3 cars, kicks off on April 6 and 7 at the newly upgraded Batangas Racing Circuit (BRC) in Rosario, Batangas. Organized by the Manila-based Asian Formula Three Corp. (AF3) in cooperation with Formula Racing Developments of China and Philippine promoters Colby Ventures Inc., the 2002 Asian Formula Challenge will feature 7 legs with the Philippines, China and Malaysia hosting two legs apiece and one round scheduled in Korea. The succeeding legs will be held on May 4 & 5 and June 15 & 16 at the Zhuhai International Circuit in China, July 27 & 28 at the Samsung Everland Circuit in Korea, Aug. 30 & 31 at the Sepang F1 Circuit in Malaysia and Sept. 28 & 29 at Johor Baru in Malaysia. The final leg will be held Oct. 26 & 27 at the Subic International Raceway in the Philippines.

'First Lady of the Turf' given tribute

LONDON—On its busiest day of the year, British horse racing on Monday paid an emotional tribute to the Queen Mother, known for half a century as the "First Lady of the Turf." At Kempton, scene of one of her greatest triumphs as an owner, the jump jockeys wore black armbands and even the racecard had a black front cover. The Queen Mother's life-long passion for racing was forever fuelled in 1950 when her Manicou won the prestigious King George VI Chase, which was named after her late husband. After the Queen Mother's death on Easter Saturday at the age of 101, racing authorities decided to go ahead with the 15 Easter Monday meetings. "It is what she would have wanted," said her racing manager, Sir Michael Oswald. But horse racing officials have decided to cancel all meetings on April 9, the day of the funeral, as a mark of respect for their most famous patron. As an owner, the Queen Mother suffered her greatest blow in the 1956 Grand National. Her Devon Loch was heading for victory when he suddenly belly-flopped just yards from the finish. His jockey Dick Francis, who went on to become an internationally acclaimed crime writer, believes it was the deafening wall of sound from wildly cheering racegoers that disoriented the horse at the very moment of triumph. ***Reuters***

Arizona blanks San Diego

PHOENIX — Randy Johnson pitched a six-hitter for his first shutout in 10 opening-day starts, and the Arizona Diamondbacks opened defense of their World Series championship by beating the San Diego Padres 2-0. With a fastball that topped out at 100, the 38-year-old left-hander struck out eight and walked one Monday to beat San Diego's Kevin Jarvis. Mark Grace homered and Danny Bautista doubled in a run off Jarvis, who gave up five hits in seven innings. *AP*

SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza ● Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA Anthology - Motor City Madness (1989 Detroit Pistons) at 8:30 a.m. (r – 4:30 p.m.) on ESPN

NBA - Washington Wizards vs LA Lakers at 9 a.m. (r - 5 p.m. and 9 p.m.) on ESPN

BASEBALL: Baseball Max at 12:30 p.m. (r - 8:30 p.m.) on ESPN

MLB - Arizona Diamondbacks vs San Diego Padres at 1 p.m. (r) on ESPN

GOLF: PGA - Shell Houston Open, Third Round at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

SOCCER: English Premier Football League at 7 a.m. (r), Middlesbrough vs Tottenham Hotspur at 12 noon on Star Sports

Asian Club Championship 2002, Semi-Final 1 at 5 p.m., Semi-Final 2 at 8:30 p.m. on Star Sports

World Cup Mix at 7 p.m. on Star Sports

UEFA Champions League - Quarterfinal #3, Leg #1 tomorrow at 2:30 a.m., Quarterfinal #4, Leg #1 tomorrow at 5 a.m. on ESPN

MOTOR SPORTS: Motorsport Asia at 12 noon on ESPN and 7:30 p.m. on Star Sports

MITSUBISHI TENNIS

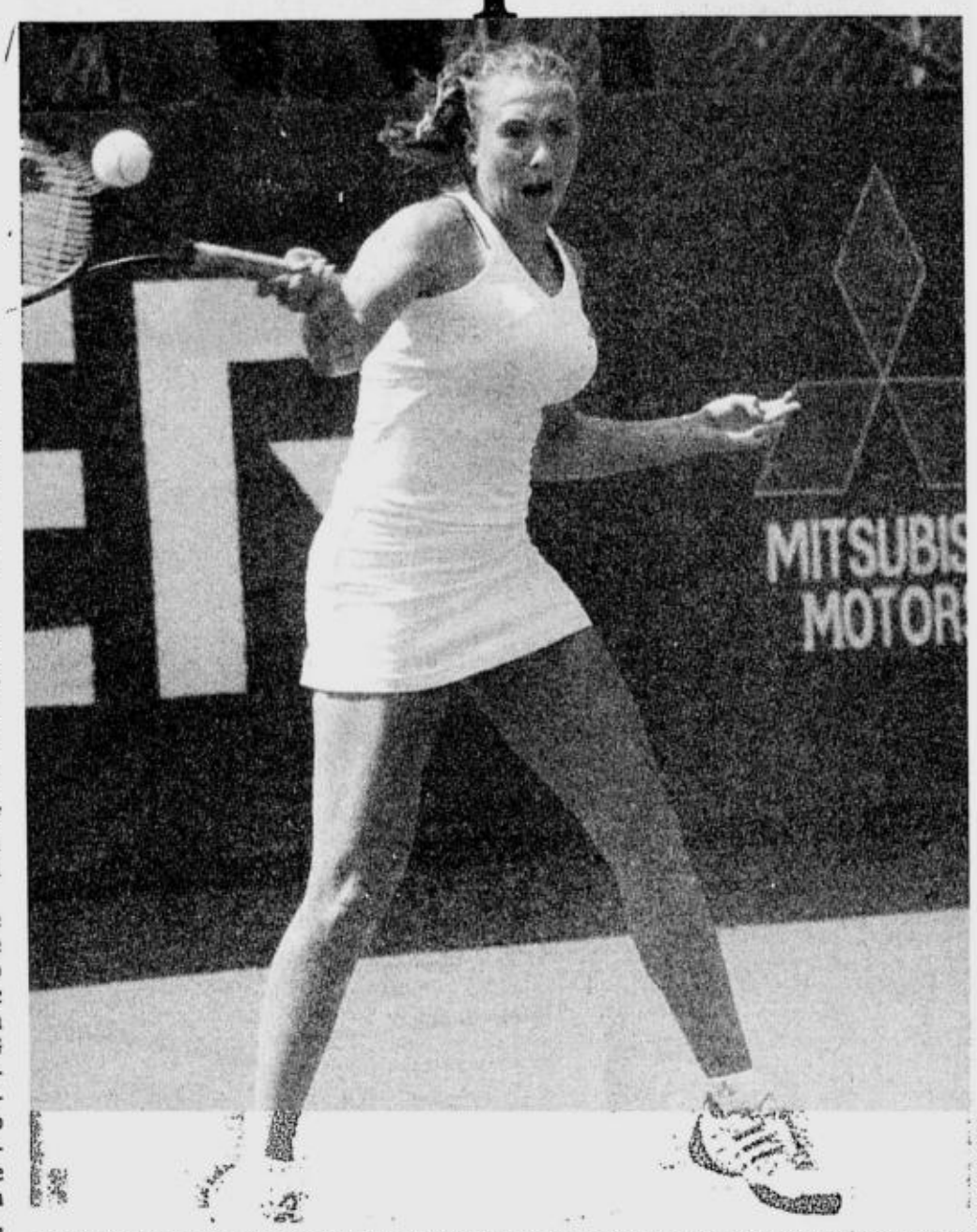
Arevalo whips American foe

Youth Games officials tapped

TECHNICAL officials with the expertise on athletes from elementary schools have been tapped to supervise competitions in the inaugural Manila Youth Games (MYG) set for April 7-14 at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

"This is to guarantee that the kids are enjoying and learning the importance of sports and athletic competition while they compete in the MYG," said Arnold "Ali" Atienza, chair of the organizing Manila Sports Council (Masco).

Arguments have been raised as to the effects on kids who plunged into athletic competition at an early age. But MYG organizers have assured experts, particularly those who handled all three editions of the Philippine National Youth Games-Batang Pinoy, are supervising the weeklong games.



ERIK ARAZAS

FRANCESCA Flavell of Great Britain is all fire in her campaign to advance in the 13th Mitsubishi Lancer Junior International Championships yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

LOCAL bet Czarina Mae Arevalo advanced to the girls' singles second round after downing American Megan Falcon, 6-4, 6-2, yesterday in the 13th Mitsubishi Lancer International Juniors Tennis Championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

The 16-year-old Arevalo, who played in three ITF junior tournaments early this year, will face fourth seed Elise Tamaela of the Netherlands, who scored a 6-4, 6-4 win over Indon Diana Julianto, in her next outing.

Arevalo's victory actually saved the day for host Philippines after the early exits of wild cards Alyssa Labay, Bernardine Sepulveda, Ma. Edna Godoy and Fil-German Anja Peter.

Labay lost to second seed and world No. 22 Silvana Bauer of the Netherlands, 1-6, 5-7; Sepulveda fell to sixth-ranked and world No. 50 Isha Lakhani of India, 1-6, 2-6; Godoy succumbed to Maya Rosa of Indonesia, 1-6, 2-6; and Peter bowed to Sandy Gumulya of Indonesia, 2-6, 2-6.

Defending champion and top seed Hsieh Su-wei of Chinese Taipei survived a tough second set to prevail over Francesca Flavell of Great Britain, 6-1, 7-6 (4).

Hsieh, currently No. 14 in the world, will meet Tiffany Wilford of Australia, who beat compatriot Daniella Dominikovic, 6-3, 6-3.

Eight-seeded Chan chin-wei of Chinese Taipei outclassed Lyoo-shu Heesun of Korea, 6-1, 6-1; Sanaa Bhambri of India downed Adriana Szili of Australia, 6-2, 6-3; and Darya Ivano of Australia outplayed Pichaya Laosirichon of Thailand, 6-3, 6-3, to also earn second-round berths in this event presented by adidas and supported by Wilson ball, Manila Midtown Hotel, Viva Mineral Water, Philippine Sports Commission, Pioneer and 3M.

Local wild cards Yannick Guba, Joseph Arcilla and Ruben Gonzales are seeing action in the boys division which has world No. 31 Go Saeda of Japan as singles top seed.

Americans Michael Koning and Chris Kwon are ranked No. 2 and 3, respectively, followed by Liu Tai-wei and Hsieh Wang-cheng of Chinese-Taipei, Bas Van Der Valk of the Netherlands, Nick Crawley of Great Britain and Robert Haybittel of Australia seeded fourth to eighth in that order.

Mandaluyong leads chessfest

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1990, Arianne Cerdeña rolled 1289 pins to snare the Masters elimination of the 14th PWBA international invitational championship at Green Valley lanes in Pasig. Also today in 1993, Gary Tabernilla shot nine-over-par 79 to post a five-stroke victory over Raymund Sangil in Class A of the Jungolf summer circuit first leg at the Veterans Golf Club course in Quezon City.

KIDAPAWAN CITY—Defending champion Mandaluyong City breezed through the first two rounds without dropping a single match to share the lead with five other teams in the National Inter-Cities and Municipalities chess championship Tuesday at the Highlander Hotel here.

Led by Grandmaster Joey Antonio and International Master Idelfonso Datu, Muntinlupa whitewashed Mati, Davao Oriental, 4-0, Monday and clobbered Kidapawan A, 3.5-1.5, Tuesday to notch its second point in the matchplay tournament.

The Mandaluyong chessers are the only team in the tournament that have yet to lose a single match.

Also with two points were Quezon City A and B, Muntinlupa A and B, and Caloocan City.

Grandmaster Eugene Torre, surviving a scare in the first round, led QC A to its second straight win at the expense of Surigao, 3-1.

Torre dodged the upset ax Monday against unknown Onofre Reyes whom he outlasted in 70 moves to lead his team to a 3-1 win over Makilala, North Cotabato.

"I was surprised by his talent (Reyes), considering he's relatively unknown. We need tournaments like this to identify potential masters," said Torre.

QC B, with NMS Roberto Suelo and Andrew Vasquez at the helm, also posted its second win against Cotabato City, 2.5-1.5.

Muntinlupa A, bannered by International Masters Nelson Mariano and Jayson Gonzales, defeated M'lang, 3-1, while Mandaluyong B, led by National Masters Yves Ranaola and John Paul Gomez, turned back Kidapawan X, 3-1.

Caloocan, bucking the loss of IM Chito Garma at board one, subdued Tagum, 2.5-1.5. Garma lost to veteran Ernesto Absin, but NM Alex Milagrosa took the cudgels for Caloocan with a gutsy win at board two.

Four teams were tied for seventh place with 1.5 points apiece, namely, Manila, General Santos City, Davao and Tagbilaran.

The team with the best match play record after nine rounds will be declared champion. In case of ties, the cumulative scores of the contending squads will be used to break the tie.

A total of 32 teams are taking part in the P526,000 tournament hosted by North Cotabato Gov. Manny Piñol and Kidapawan Mayor Luis Malaluan.

In Monday's opening ceremonies, Philippine Sports Commission Chair Eric Buhain pledged his support to Philippine chess and the sports development projects of North Cotabato. Buhain was accompanied by Commissioners Butch Ramirez and Leon Montemayor.

SPORTSWATCH

RP-Kuwait Cup tie

THE PHILIPPINES tries to avoid demotion to Group III this weekend when it tangles with Kuwait in the Asia-Oceania Zone II Davis Cup relegation tie at the Philippine Columbian Association indoor courts. Filipino Cuppers Joseph Victorino, Johnny Arcilla, Adelo Abadia and Michael Mora III will engage Kuwaitis Muhammad Al-Ghareb, Mossad Al-Jassaf, Mohamed Al-Foudari and Hussain Al-Ashwak in a best of five matches tie starting Friday. The Philippines and Kuwait were thrown into the relegation match after both teams absorbed similar 4-1 drubbings from Kazakhstan and China, respectively. "This is a very crucial tie for us," Philippine Tennis Association (Philta) president Buddy Andrada declared.

Pampanga kartfest

PAMPAGUEÑOS swept top honors in Easter Sunday's Auto Madness/Speedfest 2002 Kart Race held at the sprawling Robinson's Starmills parking grounds in San Fernando, Pampanga. Ampok Jimenez, Dax Ayson and John Sambo anchored the Pampanga A Racing Team to a first, third and fourth place finish in the team race that saw two Pampanga teams in the top three positions. The second Pampanga team placed third from the fifth and sixth place outputs of LA Laus and BJ Lagman. Auto Madness 2002 Car Trade Fair, sponsored by the Laus Group of Companies, BPI Family Bank and Robinson's Starmills, was a huge success with the weekend crowd of mall promenaders witnessing the first kart race held in the provincial capital in a decade.

Core training board

REEBOK is revolutionizing the world of working out with its core training program. The latest "must-take" class at health clubs in the United States, the Reebok core training designed to prepare bodies for optimal health and performance is now in the country. "The Reebok Core Board helps to build smooth, firm abs and increases power making for a stronger, sexier you. It was created and developed by experts at Reebok University and the American College of Sports Medicine, so you're assured of extensive, scientific research and study," said Yoya Maglaya, Reebok brand manager. It is now available with instructional video at SM Reebok stores in Megamall, North Edsa, Sucat, Shangri-la Plaza and Festival Supermall, and all Royal Sporting House outlets.

Sports clinics set

CLUB Malarayat Golf and Country Club is inviting its members and their guests this month and in May to a summer sports clinics that will offer a host of sports such as gymnastics, badminton, tennis, taekwondo and swimming. The clinic's sponsor, Milo will provide the pool of sports trainors. Sport clinic modules are available at affordable fees: gymnastics is P3,300; badminton for beginners is P1,200 and advance is P950; tennis for beginners is P2,000 and intermediate/advance is P2,500; taekwondo is P2,200 and swimming is P2000. The fee includes one Club Malarayat T-shirt upon registration and one snack per day per child. For inquiries, call sales and marketing at (043) 756-7006 or Children's Country Club at (043) 756-7009.

Did PBA miscalculate?

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

'The Filipinos are definitely facing a rough sailing in Busan'

THE PHILIPPINE Basketball Association is well advised to heed the popular clamor to form the national team right away if PBA pashas led by commissioner Jun Bernardino want to toughen the team and make it truly competitive in the forthcoming Asian Games.

"We do not have the luxury of time," said one jaded observer of the game. "Our players have less than six months to play together as a team."

Since many months ago, I have been batting for the early formation of the Philippine team together with some well-meaning friends and colleagues such as PSA president Bert Cuevas, hard-hitting columnist Rudy Navarro, chess buff and golfing scribe Rey Bancod and, more recently, two-time FIBA head Gonzalo "Lito" Puyat, but thus far the clamor has been unheeded.

At present, two candidates team—the ill-starred RP-Selecta and struggling RP-Hapee—are undergoing tryouts by taking part in the PBA Governors' Cup, something which is generally considered as a step in the wrong direction. Why is it wrong? It's because the tryouts only show that our basketball leaders are lacking in direction and foresight because our rivals like China, Koreas, Japan, Lebanon and some other Middle Eastern countries have already been playing as a team since many years ago. Yet in our case, we are still selecting our representatives to the Asiad with less than six months to go.

Also, RP-Selecta and RP-Hapee are hardly making their presence felt in this Governors' Cup, struggling just to make the top four. Worse, one (or both teams) could even be eliminated from advancing into the next round, making one wonder how the PBA, supposedly composed of the best and brightest minds in business and sports, could make such a miscalculation.

Since 1990 when the PBA first assumed the responsibility of representing the country in the Asian Games, basketball-batty Filipinos have been obsessed with winning the gold medal which their hard-fighting countrymen last won in 1962 in Jakarta under coach Enrique Crame of multi-titled Ysmael Steel. The Philippines first won the gold in grand fashion in 1951 by steamrolling the opposition in the inaugural Games in New Delhi, with Chito Calvo calling the shots. The Philippines also emerged champion in 1954 in Manila and 1958 in Tokyo under coaches Herr Silva and Tito Eduque, respectively.

"The Filipinos are definitely facing a rough sailing in Busan," Carl Menky Ching, Hong Kong-based president of the Asian Basketball Confederation, once said. "It's not only China and host Korea that stand in their way, they also have to contend with Lebanon, one of the strongest teams in the region whose players are strong, experienced and skillful." The ABC top honcho also noted the Filipinos' lack of international exposure, saying the Filipinos should go outside and play against foreign teams. But a foreign stint, as far as I know, is out of the program because June B himself previously said so.

The PBA made a respectable debut in the Asian Games in Beijing in 1990 when Robert Jaworski, now a senator, coached an all-star team to the silver medal behind champion China. Another PBA selection, mentored by Norman Black, placed fourth in 1994 in Hiroshima while the PBA Centennial Team coached by Tim Cone finished third in the last Asiad in 1998 in Bangkok.

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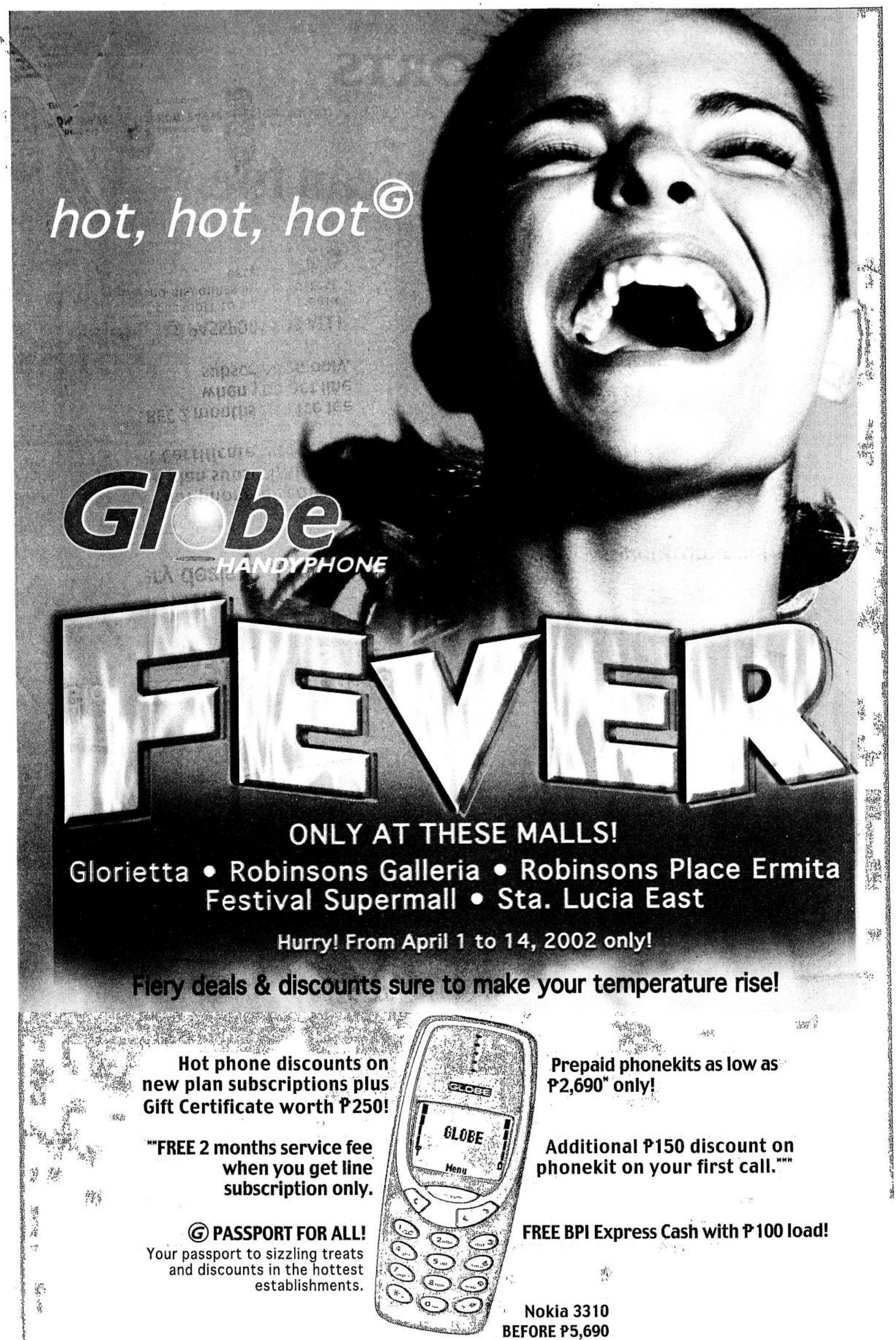
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■ Robin's half-brother killed over land dispute, NBI says /A22

TULFO

Mon Tulfo, bodyguards arrested

Near shootout in Parañaque

INQUIRER columnist and broadcast personality Ramon Tulfo and his four Marine bodyguards were arrested yesterday after an armed confrontation with Parañaque policemen over a minor traffic violation.

Parañaque police said Tulfo's bodyguards disarmed four policemen who accosted them

MON/ A23

Rico's burial open to fans

By Leah Salterio

THE FANS of Rico Yan will be allowed to attend the actor's burial tomorrow at Manila Memorial Park in Sucat, Parañaque.

The fans will also be allowed to attend the funeral Mass to be held at the main chapel of La Salle Greenhills at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

RICO'S/ A22

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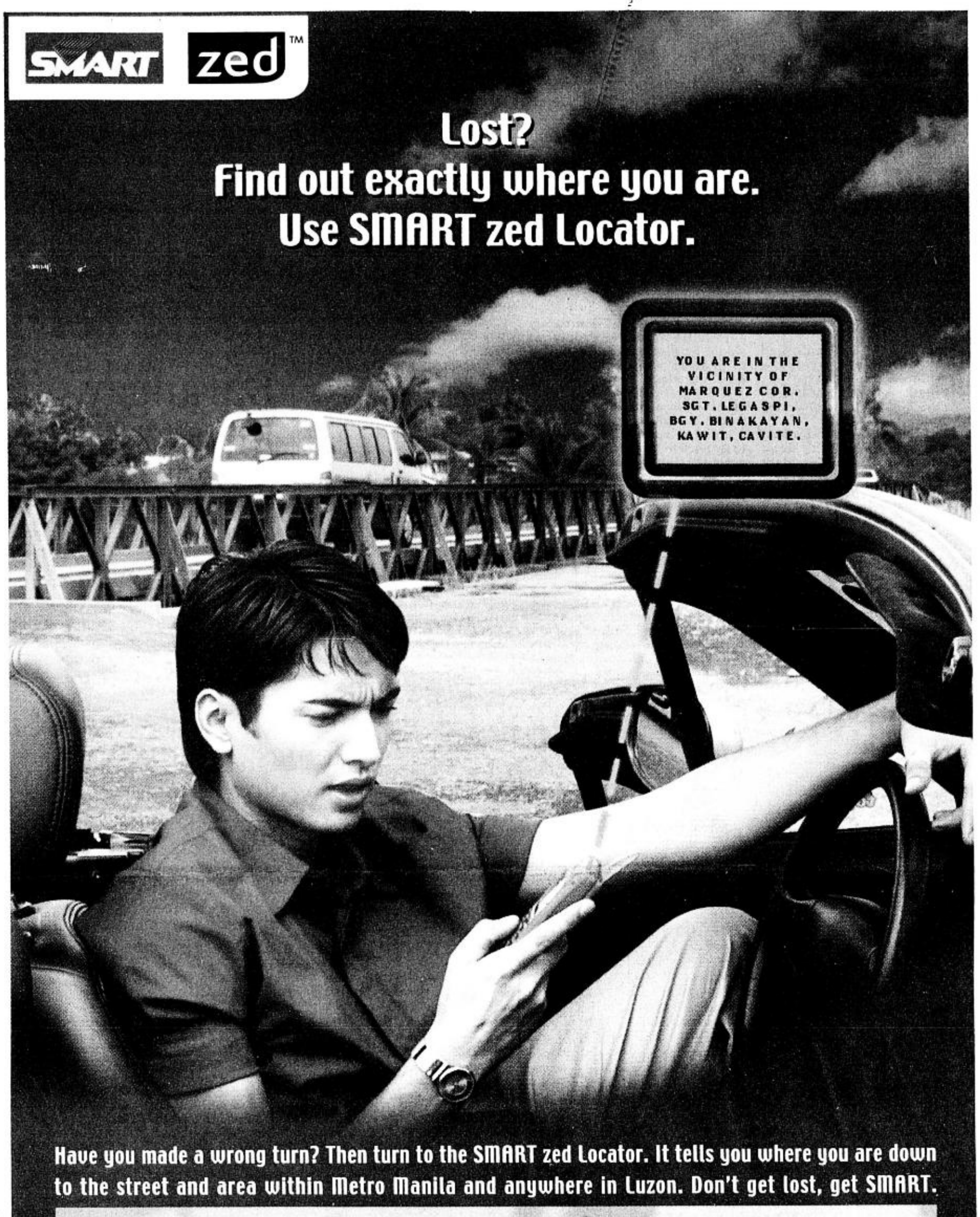

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How to retrieve your password
WI RPWD BRIONES
Key in WI RPWD <mother's maiden name> and send to 288.

How to change password
WI CPWD JUPITER MARS
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What Drives You CALTEX

Thanks to GMA, this wonder worker will rest in Zamboanga

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

A DEAR old friend, a selfless workhorse, wanted to go home to Zamboanga City.

He couldn't leave for two terrible reasons.

1) He's penniless.

2) He's dead.

He was the same fellow we talked about here last time.

Manny Suba, 55, true-blue Pampangueno, died on March 24.

But he's still marooned in his father's place in Novaliches.

After having haggled with hospital authorities in Pampanga where Manny succumbed, his family is still hobbled by horrible debts.

The funeral parlor—Biglang Awa—has charged them a total of P42,000 for Manny's coffin and other services.

* * *

In case you missed it, we had sounded a distress call to no less than President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

As we had emphasized, Manny's family was not out to collect.

But it was also explained that Manny died serving the President.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has not heard of Manny Suba.

But here's the good news. Upon learning of the dead man's dilemma, the President wasted no time.

She directed airport manager Edgardo Manda, Mrs. Arroyo's deputy chief of staff when she was still vice president, to provide immediate full assistance.

* * *

Mr. Manda, former president of a national pro-GMA association affiliated with Manny Suba's Aguman Ding Kampampangan, said he got the order direct from the President.

Mr. Manda was on the phone first thing on Tuesday, the day news of Manny Suba's lonely death was announced here.

We referred him to Henry Largo, a devoted friend who exhausted possibilities to help fulfill Manny's final wish to be buried in Zamboanga City.

"He just wanted to go home to Zamboanga, his wife's place, which he had adopted as home," Henry explained. "He's certain his many friends there will help during the wake and burial."

There was a minor hitch, though. At least a total of 11 people, the wife, children and close of kin, wanted to join the trip to Zamboanga City.

* * *

Not to worry, Mr. Manda assured. He said the President would be displeased if he failed to provide what Manny Suba's family needed.

If the group cannot be accommodated in a single plane, they would be broken into batches.

Mr. Manda said those who need to fly back to Novaliches would be provided transportation, too.

He added they would also help in settling the big debt with the funeral parlor.

That's it. Manny Suba, who died serving in the staff of the national convention of GMA supporters called Aguman Ding Kapampangan at the Holiday Inn in Clark Field, Pampanga, is going home to Zamboanga City on Friday.

As had been stated here, Manny Suba undoubtedly again abused himself to perform his assigned task. (His body lies in state in his father's place on No. 7 Tagumpay St., Gulod, Novaliches, Quezon City.)

He passed out doing his job. But what amazed the lady physician who attended to him was how the guy managed to work despite his severe condition.

Henry Largo reported that, upon being admitted on March 23, Manny was diagnosed with a heart as huge as a dinner plate. He had severe cirrhosis. His kidneys were clogged.

Only the inborn desire to always finish his assigned task had obviously kept him going.

* * *

Henry Largo was saying that, other than the President, they now have to thank other people, like Pampanga Gov. Lito Lapid, for their assistance to the late wonder worker.

Of course, nothing could be more touching than the President's grand gesture.

This was not made public but, the other week, the President also ordered immediate medical assistance for a teenager whose kidneys have stopped functioning.

The boy's fate was publicized in the Metro section of the Inquirer.

Upon learning of the kid's sad fate, the President ordered him confined at the Philippine General Hospital where he could await a kidney donor.

Civic worker Nandy Charvet from Mandaluyong, who helped make the medical problem of the teenager public, yesterday said the transplant has already been scheduled, with the teener's cousin standing in as donor.

Yes, there definitely are many other kind deeds our President has been extending to poor little people away from the eyes of the public.

These heartwarming things can only make us smile and say: This is a Presidency that truly cares.

Robin's half-brother killed over land dispute, NBI says

By Philip C. Tubeza

A PROPERTY dispute.

This is one of the angles authorities are pursuing in their investigation of the murder of the half-brother of actor Robin Padilla, said National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco.

According to Wycoco, it came out in the initial investigation that Rodolfo "Gino" Padilla, who was abducted in Nueva Ecija last month, might have been killed over a property dispute "involving members of the family."

But Wycoco declined to elaborate, adding that the Philippine National Police is handling the actual investigation.

Padilla was abducted from the family farm in Nueva Ecija on March 8. The abductors killed his farmhand.

Padilla's body was found on March 14 in Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija.

Wycoco told reporters that they identified the victim though his fingerprints.

"We have positively identified Padilla," said NBI medico-legal chief Maximo Reyes. "Our forensic team—including medico-legal personnel and dentists—was there."

"I told the forensic doctors to bring the skull here (to Manila headquarters) and determine (the details of the) gunshot wound," Reyes said.

He said the NBI will still check out if Padilla died due to other causes.

This developed as actor Robin Padilla went to the Department of Justice on Monday and asked for help from Justice Secretary Hernando Perez.

Perez has since ordered the NBI to assist in the investigation of the crime.

Barangay official rapped for trying to steal a kiss

A MANILA barangay chairman is in hot water after he allegedly tried to force a 23-year-old woman to kiss him during a drinking bout on Easter Sunday.

The Western Police District are investigating the complaint filed against Renato del Mundo, chair of barangay 251 Zone 24, District II, Tondo, Manila.

The victim, a resident of Biak-na-Bato Street, Tondo, Manila, told investigators that a male friend invited her for a drink around midnight Sunday.

The victim agreed and, while they were having that drink, a drunken Del Mundo joined them after a while, police said.

Minutes later, Del Mundo suddenly ordered the woman to kiss him, police said.

The girl refused, but the chairman allegedly continued to harass her.

When she still refused, Del Mundo allegedly "tried to draw something from his waist," the woman said. She later told police that it could have been a gun.

Luckily, cooler heads stepped in and separated the two, police said. ***Philip Tubeza***

NBI nets P.3M in fake CDs

By Philip C. Tubeza and Jerome Aning

AS A Manila councilor called on police to increase their efforts in curbing rampant piracy of movie and music videos, the National Bureau of Investigation has begun to crack down on the counterfeiters.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said NBI units nationwide will "focus the entire second quarter (of the year)" in going after the illegal manufacturers and distributors of compact discs.

As if to emphasize his point, NBI agents raided three business establishments and confiscated P300,000 worth of fake Sony Playstation units and accessories.

Wycoco identified the erring firms as Smart Gadgets Enterprise at SM City North Edsa, Circuit City Technotronics Center Co. at SM City Fairview, and Precious Island Marketing, on the second floor of Ali Mall in Cubao, Quezon City.

The NBI began investigating the three firms when lawyers of Sony Computer Entertainment Inc. complained that the firm owners were violating the electronic giant's intellectual property rights.

NBI agents, led by lawyer Rafael Z. Ragos, found out that the three firms were illegally selling Sony software programs in CD-Rom format, as well as gaming consoles and related accessories.

NBI agents raided the firms on March 22 and confiscated the altered Playstations, CD-ROMs, PS analog, and PS memory cards.

Wycoco said the owners of the three business establishments will be charged for violating the country's intellectual property law.

Besides going after manufacturers of fake CDs and software programs, the NBI will also crack down on manufacturers of fake signature clothes and denims, Wycoco said.

In Manila, Councilor Luciano "Lou" Veloso said the Western Police District and the city's bureau of permits must "pursue a more vigorous and relentless" anti-piracy campaign.

The fifth district councilor cited the continuing sale of pirated tapes, VCDs and DVDs in Quiapo and Divisoria despite frequent drives by the WPD and the bureau.

"Although the (anti-piracy) efforts exerted are laudable, they reached a dead end recently," Veloso said in his proposed resolution.

Veloso, who is also an actor, described piracy as a "plague that continues to threaten the country's movie and music industry."

Losses inflicted by piracy, he said, are causing fewer movie productions every year. This, in turn, translates to loss of jobs among workers in the entertainment industry.

QC judge denies MWSS exec's petition

By Agnes E. Donato

A FIRED deputy administrator of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System regulatory office is now practically at the mercy of the people who sacked her, after a Quezon City judge denied for lack of merit her petition for preliminary injunction.

Judge Percival Mandap Lopez of Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 78 said it was not up to the court to decide on the legality of lawyer Elena Luz Alojipan's removal from office.

Alojipan was fired as MWSS deputy administrator for financial regulation in October last year for alleged "inefficiency, undesirability, favoritism, harassment and insubordination."

But she and Virgilio Ocaya, MWSS deputy administrator for legal and administrative regulation, claimed that their removal from office had to do with their exposé on the alleged scams in the MWSS.

In her petition for preliminary injunction, Alojipan also claimed that the MWSS Board of Trustees illegally terminated her five-year contract, which was supposed to end on July 31.

She explained that she enjoyed the security of tenure because of the permanent status of her appointment.

The Board of Trustees, on the other hand, claimed Alojipan did not have security of tenure "until (she) obtains a CES eligibility."

But Judge Lopez maintained it was not within the jurisdiction of the court to decide on the legality of the MWSS Board of Trustees' action.

"It is the Civil Service Commission which is the appropriate body that must decide on the legality or illegality of the removal (from office) of the petitioner," Lopez said, almost five months after the petition was filed before his court.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, April 3, 2002
Octave of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 3:1-10

Gospel: Lk 24:13-35

Two disciples of Jesus were going to Emmaus, a village seven miles from Jerusalem, and they talked about what had happened. While they were talking and wondering, Jesus came up and walked with them, but their eyes were held and they did not recognize him.

He asked, "What is this you are talking about?" The two stood still, looking sad. Then one named Cleophas answered, "Why, it seems you are the only traveler in Jerusalem who doesn't know what has happened there these past few days." And he asked, "What is it?"

They replied, "It is about Jesus of Nazareth. He was a prophet, you know, mighty in word and deed before God and the people. But the chief priests and our rulers sentenced him to death. They handed him over to be crucified. We had hoped that he would redeem Israel.

It is now the third day since all this took place. It is true that some women of our group have disturbed us. When they went to the tomb at dawn, they did not find his body; they came to tell us that they had seen a vision of angels who told them that Jesus was alive. Some friends of our group went to the tomb and found everything just as the women had said, but they did not see him."

He said to them, "How dull you are, how slow of understanding! You fail to believe the message of the prophets. Is it not written that the Christ should suffer all this and then enter his glory?" Then starting with Moses and going through the prophets, he explained to them everything in the Scriptures concerning himself.

As they drew near the village they were heading for, Jesus made as if to go farther. But they prevailed upon him, "Stay with us, for night comes quickly. The day is now almost over." So he went in to stay with them. When they were at table, he took the bread, said a blessing, broke it and gave each a piece.

Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; but he vanished out of their sight. And they said to each other, "Were not our hearts filled with ardent yearning when he was talking to us on the road and explaining the Scriptures?"

They immediately set out and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and their companions gathered together. They were greeted by these words: "Yes, it is true, the Lord is risen! He has appeared to Simon!" Then the two told what had happened on the road and how Jesus made himself known when he broke bread with them.

Commentary

Our risen Lord is our companion still on the road of life, where two or three are gathered in his name. Jesus shows us again how faith is awakened as he walks with the disciples, encouraging them to talk of what has happened and how it has affected them. He listens to their deep grief and disappointment, and so finds the way to enter in and touch their hearts, kindling them with ardent yearning. It's everyone's story of learning to recognize Christ: we share our stories, we find enlightenment in the scriptures, we break the bread in memory of Jesus. Jesus might have walked on unrecognized. It was the simple human gesture of welcoming the stranger, which opened eyes and hearts to vision and communion.

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Rico's burial open to fans

(From page A21)

A huge volume of Yan's followers is expected to show up at the Manila Memorial Park to get a final glimpse of the 27-year-old actor who died in his sleep at the Dos Palmas Resort in Puerto Princesa, Palawan last Friday.

Earlier, the actor's fans and members of the media were not allowed in Yan's wake. Yan's family only permitted fans to enter the chapel in small batches, but only from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

After 5 p.m., only members of Yan's family, relatives, friends and fellow show biz stars were allowed to view the actor's remains.

Parañaque police officers have coordinated with Yan's family and cemetery officials for the security measures during the burial.

Police will secure the portion of Sucat Road near McDonald's restaurant in BF Homes to meet the funeral march that will come from La Salle Chapel in Greenhills.

Police will also man the entire stretch of Sucat leading to the cemetery.

Other burial plans or changes in the schedule would be announced on ABS-CBN, where Yan was a contract star.

Yan was found dead on Friday morning inside his garden cottage at Dos Palmas Resort. He was 27.

According to the autopsy report, he suffered from hemorrhagic pancreatitis resulting in cardiac arrest or bangungot.

At the time of his death, Yan was one of the most popular and sought-after young actors. He was part of the triumvirate Whattamen-with Dominic Ochoa, who was with him at the resort, and Marvin Agustin. Together they were mainstays of the weekly ABS-CBN program of the same name.

But Yan was also a business-minded young man who made his millions even away from the cameras.

He was a franchise owner of the restaurant-bar Tequila Joe's (with Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri, Jean Henri Lhuillier, brothers Griffith and Eugene Go, Bobby Goco and Sandra Vidarte). He owned Orbitz Pearl shakes (with some Chinese friends), which has 150 stalls in Metro Manila.

He also opened a coffee shop called Timbuktu and another restaurant called Java Hut, both in Malate, Manila.

Yan was a commercial model when ABS-CBN resident director Johnny Manahan spotted him in the Eskinol Skin Master TV ad. He was asked to audition and was subsequently launched as part of Star Circle Batch '96.

His expressive face and boyish appeal enhanced the sales of such products as Greenwich Pizza, Nissin's Eggnog and Rainforest Mineral Water. He was also the image model of Molecules shirts.

He made the girls giggle playing wholesome romantic leads in movies like "Paano ang Puso Ko," "Dahil Mahal na Mahal Kita," "Radio Romance" and "Flames." He also starred in soaps like "Mula sa Puso" and "Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan."

He even wrote a column, "Boys to Men," for the Manila Bulletin in 1999.

He was also one of the co-hosts of the daily noontime program, "Magandang Tanghali, Bayan."

Yan was the third in a brood of four children.

He was the grandson of former AFP chief of staff and ambassador to the Court of St. James', Manuel Yan, who was appointed by deposed President Joseph Estrada as political adviser on the peace process.

Bobby Yan, older brother of the actor, said his family decided to put up the Rico Yan Youth Foundation "for all those who love and trust Rico."

The foundation, Bobby said, will aim to create more Rico Yans.

"When Rico was still alive, he encouraged the youth to stay away from drugs and do worthwhile activities," Bobby said.

"He was one example that a young person cannot be corrupted," he added.

Bobby will head the foundation, which will have Rico's fellow ABS-CBN contract stars as honorary members.

He said it was his brother's dream to put up a foundation for the youth even when he was still alive.

"Rico did his job," Bobby said. "He did a lot. He gave so much of himself to people. Now, it's up to us to continue his dreams."

Chinese found dead in Makati

MYSTERY surrounded the death of a Chinese man in Makati City the other day, police said.

Investigators said they had no idea as to what caused the death of Victor Sy, 56, a resident of Marconi Street, Barangay San Isidro, Makati City.

Sy was found dead inside his house around 7:30 p.m. the other day by his friend Michael Hilario, 26, of Potrero, Malabon.

Hilario told police he went to Sy's house for a visit, but was surprised to find him lifeless, lying face down in his living room.

Police are still investigating the case and are waiting for the results of the autopsy on the victim. ***Alcuin Papa***

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (EVIDENCE)—Admissibility of ante-mortem statements—Under Rule 130, Section 37, the requisites for the admissibility of ante-mortem statements are: (1) the statement concerns the crime and surrounding circumstances of the declarant's death; (2) at the time it was made, the declarant was under the consciousness of an impending death; (3) the declarant would have been competent as a witness had he survived; and (4) the declaration was offered in a criminal case for homicide, murder, or parricide in which the declarant was the victim. Dying declarations are considered an exception to the hearsay rule since they are made *in extremis*, when the declarant is at the point of death. For then, the motive to commit falsehood is improbable and the inclination is only to speak the truth. In the present case, all four requisites for the admissibility as a dying declaration of the victim's statement that accused-appellant was his assailant are present. When the victim was stabbed, he immediately staggered to the nearby hospital. When his mother met him at the hospital, he immediately told her that it was accused-appellant who stabbed him. He made the statement in contemplation of an approaching death. Nor is there any question that had the victim survived, he would have been competent to testify in court, as there is no evidence to the contrary. Finally, the dying declaration was in fact offered in a criminal prosecution in which the declarant was the victim. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Gonzaga-Reyes, Third Division, People v. Bituon, G.R. No. 142043, September 13, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Purge of confidential agents confined to Metro, Wycoco says

By Philip C. Tubeza

ONLY agents based in Metro Manila will be affected in the revamp to clean up the roster of the National Bureau of Investigation, according to the bureau's top official.

"We will purge the list of confidential agents in Metro Manila only; we will no longer push through with (sacking) those in the provinces," National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco said yesterday.

Wycoco said half of the 5,000 NBI confidential agents are in danger of losing their jobs due to complaints that they were abusing their authority.

He said that the bureau has received numerous complaints on agents based in Metro Manila.

About half of the 5,000 confidential agents are based in the capital.

Wycoco said two weeks ago that the records of the 5,000 agents would be reviewed because of the complaints.

But during the two-day command conference that ended yesterday, Wycoco received feedback that the CAs in the provinces were doing their job and only those in Metro Manila are the ones abusing their authority.

He said he will order the NBI unit chiefs based in the capital to review the performance of the CAs attached to their units.

Wycoco added that the NBI will also be more strict when they recruit confidential agents in the future.

He explained that CAs are not "organic" members of the bureau. Nevertheless, they are recruited because they are deemed essential to the bureau, especially when the NBI investigations touch on chemical engineering, electronics, or civil engineering.

NBI agents also rely on CAs for tips concerning criminal activities in their communities.

Rookie cop complains of police brutality

NEVER kick a man when he's down.

A high-ranking Western Police District official is now in hot water after a rookie policeman accused him of "police brutality."

PO1 Rafael G. Boco Jr. accused his superior Senior Supt. Rafael Magno Corpuz, WPD District Headquarters Support Unit chief, of kicking him even when he was already lying on the ground for being late for roll call formation.

Boco, 23, of Lallana Street, Tondo, Manila, told investigators that Corpuz got angry at him because he arrived late for the regular morning roll call at 7:15 a.m. on March 28 at the WPD headquarters on UN Avenue, Manila.

"He asked me why I was late, when I was about to tell him, he suddenly got angry and told me to lie on the pavement," Boco said. "But my uniform had just been ironed, so I asked him if I could just do push ups."

Corpuz apparently did not like the suggestion.

"Are you being a smart-aleck? I could kick you," Boco quoted Corpuz as saying.

Boco then told investigator SPO4 Mario A. Salonga that when he "dropped" to the ground, he was taken by surprise when Corpuz kicked him in the head.

Boco said his head hit the ground and he got bruises on his right cheek. But the police official allegedly was not contented with just kicking Boco, he also lashed out at the rookie.

"You're a fool; I don't care if you're a son of a policeman," Corpuz allegedly said in Filipino.

Boco's father is a lawman also with the WPD.

Boco said he lay on the ground for 15 minutes before he was told to get up.

After the roll call, Boco proceeded to the WPD General Assignment Section and filed a physical injury complaint against his superior.

Corpuz was not in his office when the INQUIRER tried to get in touch with him. ***Philip Tubeza***

Man killed over his partner's 'nice legs'

PEDICAB driver Florencio S. Alojado Jr., 28, was killed in Tondo, Manila as he tried to defend the honor of his live-in partner from an orange vendor on Monday.

The unidentified vendor said out loud that her legs "looked nice" after she reportedly refused to buy an orange from him.

Alojado, of Area D, Parola Compound, Tondo, Manila, was killed when the orange vendor and another man ganged up on him and stabbed him in the chest about 4:30 a.m. in front of the Cairo shoe store on Claro M. Recto, Divisoria, Tondo, said Detective Raul Olavario, of the Western Police District-homicide section.

Alojado was walking on Recto with his partner, Maria Christina Grefril, and their friends, Michael Polacario, Irene Inventor, Ana Andrea, when the orange vendor called out to Grefril.

When the woman ignored the vendor, the suspect allegedly changed tack and called everyone's attention to her legs.

"You're a snob; but you do have nice legs," the culprit allegedly said in Filipino.

Alojado heard the comment and confronted the suspect. The vendor got irritated and punched the victim on the jaw.

The suspect ran away but he later returned armed with a knife. Another suspect joined the vendor and ganged up on Alojado.

The orange vendor was about to stab the victim when Polacario threw a chair at him. The vendor's accomplice then thrust a knife into Alojado's chest.

The culprits fled while the victim was taken to the Gat Andres Bonifacio Hospital.

Police are now trying to get a description of the suspects from the victim's companions and other witnesses. ***Philip Tubeza***

30 families lose homes in Pangarap demolition

By Agnes Donato

SOME 30 families were left homeless after police demolished their shanties in the contested Pangarap Village in Caloocan City yesterday.

No one got hurt in the demolition, as the residents soon realized that they were outnumbered by the 200 policemen who accompanied the demolition team and decided against putting up a fight.

Judge Eleanor Quong of the Caloocan City Metropolitan Trial Court Branch 51 issued the demolition order, which was served by Sheriff Arniel Apostol.

Fred Nunieza, president of the Malacañang Homeowners Association, said even the efforts of the city government were not able to stop the demolition in the property of Greggy Araneta.

Caloocan City Mayor Rey Malonzo and Interior and local Government Secretary Joey Lina both tried to call up Araneta, but they failed to reach him.

According to Munieza, the demolition order had been issued as early as Feb. 18. But it was not carried out right away, as Mayor Malonzo and Secretary Lina tried to negotiate with Araneta.

During a meeting on March 4, Araneta reportedly promised government officials that there would be no demolition in Pangarap Village.

"That's why the residents here, and even the mayor's staff, were taken by surprise when we heard news that Greggy Araneta was sending men to dismantle our houses," Munieza said.

Residents of Pangarap Village argue that they own the 156-hectare property, and they have been trying to prevent the Aranetas from carrying out the demolition since August last year.

The case they have filed at the Court of Appeals was reportedly submitted for resolution as early as October 2001, but Justice Elvie John Asuncion has yet to decide on it.

Ramon Tulfo, Marine bodyguards arrested

(From page A21)

RAMON TULFO, his brother Erwin, and the seized weapons at the Southern Police District headquarters in Parañaque. ERIK ARAZAS

for violating the Metro Manila Development Authority's Unified Vehicular Volume Reduction Program or color coding scheme at the Sucat interchange in Parañaque about 9 a.m. yesterday.

A shootout between Tulfo's group and police almost occurred when about 20 policemen, some of whom were in civilian clothes, arrived at the scene and surrounded Tulfo's group, Parañaque police chief Supt. Ruben Catabona said.

"We nearly engaged in a shootout," Catabona said. "Everyone was just waiting for a signal."

In a telephone interview, Tulfo said, "It felt like a siege." He said his bodyguard only tried to protect himself from a "hot-headed" policeman who poked a gun at him.

"This cop was not in uniform," Tulfo said. "He was in civilian clothes and he was lugging an M-16 Armalite rifle. He poked his gun at my security detail, but one of my men overpowered him and was able to disarm him."

Tulfo said two other policemen who were in uniform, pointed their weapons at his group.

"Naturally, the reaction of my security men was to overpower them," he said. "We did, and there was a stand-off. They wanted us to surrender our weapons to them, but I didn't want to do that because they would massacre us."

But the official police report said that Tulfo and his men "arrogantly ignored" the city's Oplan Sita and immediately disarmed the policemen.

Tulfo said he and his group were traveling in two vehicles from Parañaque. He said he and his driver were in a blue Isuzu Trooper with license plate number WJV-994, while his three other bodyguards were in a blue Toyota Revo (WSB-494).

Under the MMDA's color coding scheme, both vehicles should not have been out on the road yesterday.

Traffic officer PO1 Felix Dayag stopped Tulfo's back-up vehicle for violating the color-coding scheme, Catabona said.

Tulfo said the vehicle, in which he was riding and which had a press badge, was not stopped, but his back-up vehicle was stopped. He said the security men in the back-up vehicle, tried to explain to the policemen that they were Tulfo's bodyguards and their vehicle was also exempted from color-coding. He said he explained to the policemen that he was exempted from the rule since he was a member of the media.

Catabona claimed Tulfo's group started the confrontation when one of them punched one of the policemen and poked a gun at him.

Tulfo said he asked for Catabona to come to the scene. When Catabona arrived, Tulfo said they surrendered all their weapons to him, including the guns that his bodyguards wrested away from the policemen.

"We were first brought to the Parañaque police station, but I asked that we be taken to a neutral place, which was the Southern Police District Headquarters inside Fort Bonifacio," Tulfo said.

Police records showed that five .45 pistols and two M-16 rifles with magazines were seized from Tulfo and his men.

Earlier, Catabona said he and his men would file charges against Tulfo's group for obstructing justice and seizing the firearms of police officers.

But SPD Director Gen. Jose Gutierrez released Tulfo and his group without charges being filed against them. He said the issue had been settled amicably.

"I patched up things between Tulfo and the Parañaque police," Gutierrez said.

MMDA Regulation No. 96-005, which outlines the implementation of the Unified Vehicular Volume Reduction Program considers "official media vehicles with markings expressly showing (the names of) their company" as exempted from the scheme.

The ordinance imposes a P300 fine on the offenders. It took effect on June 1996.

The MMDA said yesterday that it had not issued Tulfo any exemption from the color-coding scheme.

Dick Zaide of the office of the MMDA chair said their records showed Tulfo had not obtained any exemption since the beginning of this month.

He explained that only the MMDA could issue exemptions from the color-coding scheme and that it was good for three months only. The agency issues exemptions by batches, he said. This year, the first batch of exemptions covers the months of January, February and March.

"If he (Tulfo) had an exemption, that would have expired by now," Zaide said. "He has not applied for a renewal."

Only media vehicles with the logo of their organization are allowed on the streets even if they are banned under the color-coding scheme, Zaide said.

But members of the media using their private vehicles even during the day the vehicles are banned can explain to traffic enforcers that they are on official duty, Zaide said.

"There are traffic enforcers who disallow that, but there are enforcers who don't," he said.

MMDA Press Corps President Alvin Murcia said that he had not received any request from Tulfo for an exemption from the color-coding scheme.

The MMDA and the Press Corps had signed a memorandum of agreement which stipulates that applications for the vehicle exemptions submitted by media personnel must first be approved by the MMDA Press Corps before the MMDA can process them. ***Christian V. Esguerra and Alcuin Papa***

13 guards arrested for toting firearms

By Alcuin Papa

SOME 13 security guards were arrested in Makati City the other day for illegally carrying high-powered firearms.

Arresting officer Insp. McVernon Manera identified those arrested as Micheal Ang, Rusfild Parinas, Mabini Mariano, Michael Togle, Anthony Mangaya, Armando Aquino, Jimmy Samonte, Jason Cabayao, Abraham Golena, Charly Demit, Ramer Labandero, Benigno Sanchez, and Ryan Carreon.

The guards, who work for the Mishem Security Agency, were arrested on the 12th floor of the Philcomsat Building on Buendia Avenue, Makati City, around noon the other day.

Police seized from the guards eight shotguns, three M16 automatic rifles, a carbine, three .38-caliber revolvers and several rounds of ammunition.

According to a report, the desk officer of Makati City police station 6 received a tip that a large cache of high-powered firearms was being transported to the Philcomsat building.

When the police arrived on the site, they found the guards in possession of the guns. Upon further investigation, it was revealed that the guns lacked the necessary documents.

The guards are now detained at the Makati City Police detention center.

Environment group moves to preserve Arroceros park

By Jerome Aning

AN ENVIRONMENT group that seeks to preserve the Arroceros Forest Park in the heart of Manila, has tied up with a tree-planting group headed by Sen. Loren Legarda, in an apparent move to thwart the alleged commercial designs of city officials for the park.

The Winner Foundation Inc. which oversees the park, and Legarda's Luntiang Pilipinas, will sign a memorandum of agreement next month for the continuing reforestation of the park.

In a press statement, Legarda said the LP will adopt the park as part of its nationwide program. The LP has so far planted over a million trees since it was launched in 1998.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza has announced plans to erect on the park a youth rehabilitation center and a building that will house the city's school division.

Winner, headed by Regina Roces-Paterno, is concerned that the park will be turned into "a facility that threatens to violate its environmental sanctity."

"We will oppose such a move if it indeed materializes," Legarda said.

Winner acquired development rights to the park based on an agreement it entered with the city government in 1993.

Under the pact, the forest park will be turned over to City Hall after 15 years, or in 2007.

Atienza contends that Winner technically has no rights over the park because the agreement between Winner and then Mayor Alfredo Lim did not pass through the City Council.

The setting up of the park, however, was initially supported by the Council, then presided by Atienza as vice mayor. Former President Ramos and First Lady Amelita Ramos backed Winner's efforts.

The park's development plan is now on its second phase (2002-2007) where the group now seeks to promote the park as a venue for education trips.

Tina Testa, a Winner member, said the forest park will become the "next battleground" between the mayor and conservation groups.

The mayor and the conservationists locked horns last year when City Hall announced its plan to build a parking lot and a new campus for the City Colleges of Manila on the Mehan Garden, which is also on Arroceros.

The parking structure, Park 'N Ride, has since opened to the public. Atienza said CCM will also be built because of failure to locate an alternative site.

"The Arroceros Forest Park is unique in the metropolis and it's one of Manila's remaining 'oxygen lungs,'" Testa said. The Winner's will celebrate Earth Day on April 21 at the park.

LYN RILLON

WHO can imagine that a tree-lined lane, like this one in the Arroceros Forest Park, exists in the heart of Manila?

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	CROSS ROAD
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	HARI NG SELDA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	BLADE 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	TIME MACHINE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	ICE AGE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	E.T.
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	EVIL WOMAN
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	BLADE 2
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	HUBOG / TOO MUCH FLESH
ODEON	HARI NG SELDA
ODEON-2	TIME MACHINE
ROBEN	ITLOG
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	HARRY POTTER / PHOSSED

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	ITLOG
REMAR	HARI NG SELDA
REMAR-2	ITLOG

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	HARI NG SELDA
B	ITLOG
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	TIME MACHINE
CINEMA-2	ICE AGE

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	HARI NG SELDA
CINEMA-2	JOHN Q
CINEMA-3	THE MAJESTIC
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BLADE 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	JIMMY NEUTRON
CINEMA-6	GOT 2 BELIEVE
CINEMA-7	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
CINEMA-8	BANDITS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TIME MACHINE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BLADE 2
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	ICE AGE
CINEMA-12	ICE AGE
CINEMA-14	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
CINEMA-15	HARI NG SELDA

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	CROSS ROAD
CINEMA-2	E.T.
CINEMA-3	ICE AGE
CINEMA-4	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
CINEMA-5	THE TIME MACHINE
CINEMA-6	BLADE 2

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
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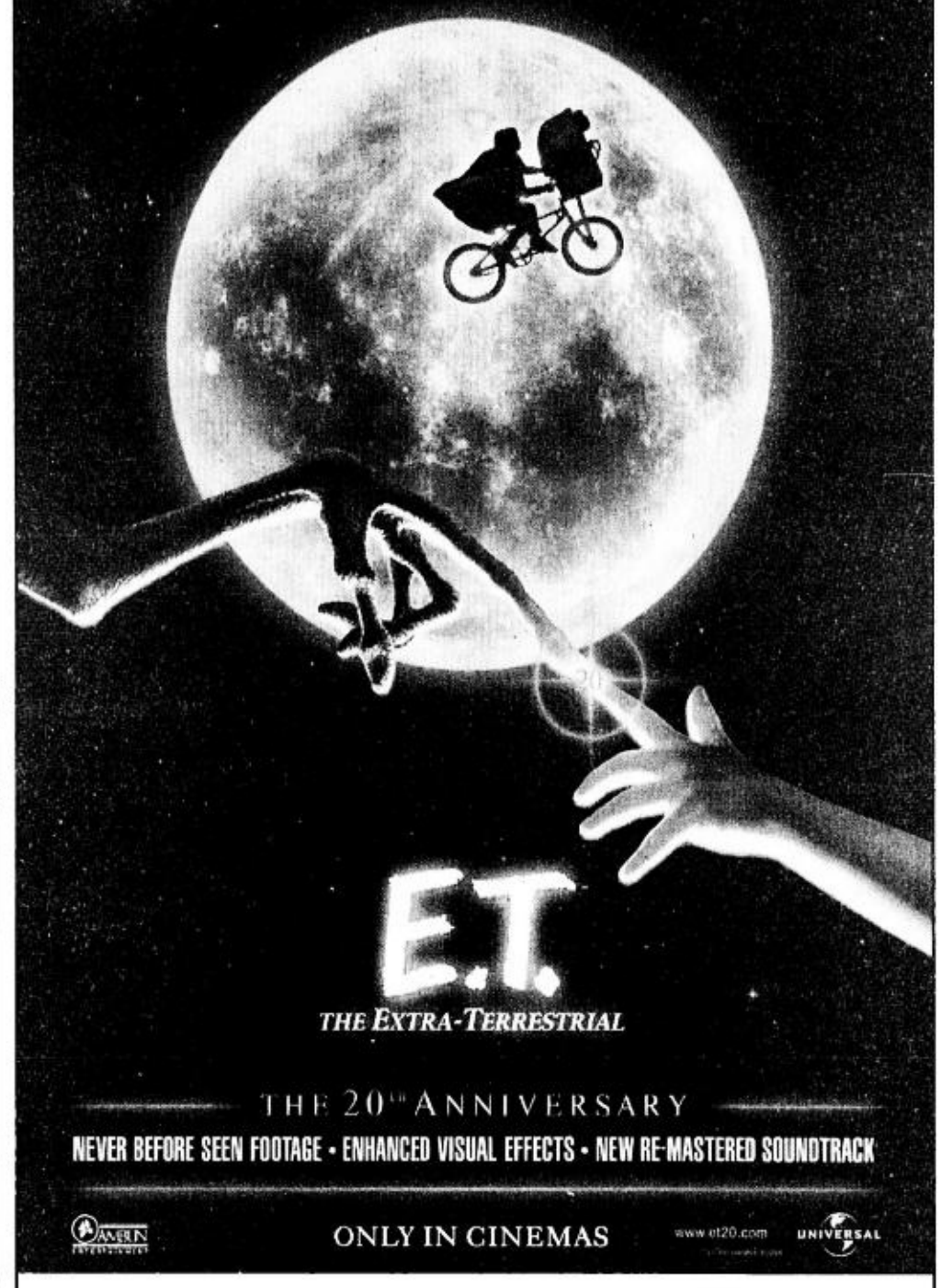

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7	ITLOG
8	TIME MACHINE

SM SOUTHMALL
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2	CROSS ROAD
3	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
4	BLADE 2
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6	EVIL WOMAN
7	E.T.
8	ICE AGE
9	HARI NG SELDA
10	TIME MACHINE

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2	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
3	CROSS ROAD
4	EVIL WOMAN
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8	TIME MACHINE
9	HARI NG SELDA
10	GOT 2 BELIEVE

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1	D-TOX
2	WE WERE SOLDIERS
3	NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
4	JIMMY NEUTRON
5	13 GHOSTS
6	E.T.
7	HARI NG SELDA
8	ICE AGE

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1	TIME MACHINE
2	SNAKE CHARMER
3	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
4	E.T.
5	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
6	CROSS ROAD
7	ICE AGE
8	BLADE 2
9	HARI NG SELDA
10	ITLOG
11	GOT 2 BELIEVE
12	EVIL WOMAN

SM CITY ILOILO
3200422

1	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
2	CLOSED
3	ICE AGE
4	HARI NG SELDA
5	WE WERE SOLDIERS
6	E.T.
7	CLOSED
8	NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	ICE AGE
2	E.T.
3	TIME MACHINE
4	ITLOG
5	CROSS ROAD
6	HARI NG SELDA

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
2	ICE AGE
3	EVIL WOMAN
4	CROSS ROAD
5	BLADE 2
6	E.T.
7	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
8	ITLOG
9	HARI NG SELDA
10	GOT 2 BELIEVE
11	TIME MACHINE
12	BLADE 2

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
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1	ICE AGE
2	BLADE 2
3	HARI NG SELDA
4	TIME MACHINE

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8820984

1	HARI NG SELDA
2	TIME MACHINE
3	BLADE 2

SM MEGAMALL
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1	BLADE 2
2	E.T.
3	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
4	ICE AGE
5	CROSS ROAD
6	TIME MACHINE
7	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
8	ITLOG
9	HARI NG SELDA
10	BLADE 2
11	EVIL WOMAN
12	GOT 2 BELIEVE

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2514302

1	TIME MACHINE
2	ICE AGE
3	BLADE 2
4	HARI NG SELDA

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	ITLOG
2	CROSS ROAD
3	TIME MACHINE
4	HARI NG SELDA
5	E.T.
6	ICE AGE
7	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
8	BLADE 2
9	CLOSED
10	CLOSED
11	CLOSED
12	CLOSED

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1	E.T.
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4	D-TOX
5	NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
6	ICE AGE

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6 GOLD (SDDS)	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
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9	GOT 2 BELIEVE
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7	
8	

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2	
3	

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4	

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3	RESERVE
4	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
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6	E.T.
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8	E.T.

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3	ITLOG
4	HARI NG SELDA
5	ICE AGE

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1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

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2	ITLOG

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2	ITLOG
3 (DTS)	ICE AGE

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1	HARI NG SELDA
2 (DTS)	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
3 (DOLBY)	TIME MACHINE
4	E.T.

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2 (DOLBY)	TIME MACHINE
3 (DTS)	E.T.
4	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO

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2	TIME MACHINE
3	ITLOG
4 (DTS)	BLADE 2

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3 (DTS)	ICE AGE
4	ITLOG
5	JOHN O

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	HARI NG SELDA
2	E.T.
3	TIME MACHINE

Olivarez Los Baños
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2	HARI NG SELDA
3	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO

Olivarez Tagaytay
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3	GOT 2 BELIEVE

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

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3	RESERVE

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	HARI NG SELDA
2 (DTS)	ITLOG

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Emperor
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2	BANDITS
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Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

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3	D-TOX
4	HARI NG SELDA

Jade Cinema
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2	HARI NG SELDA
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Ermita
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2	E.T.
3	HARI NG SELDA
4	EVIL WOMAN
5	CROSS ROAD
6	ICE AGE
7	TIME MACHINE

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2	E.T.
3	HARI NG SELDA
4	ICE AGE
5	TIME MACHINE
6	BLADE 2
7	CROSS ROAD
8	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO

Novaliches
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2	E.T.
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4	ICE AGE
5	BLADE 2
6	TIME MACHINE
7	CROSS ROAD
8	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO

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6	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO

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3	JIMMY NEUTRON
4	D-TOX
5	NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
6	RAT RACE

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3	HARI NG SELDA
4	NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
5	EVA
6	E.T.

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Ruffa sparkles with diamond-studded jewelry

RUFFA Gutierrez was sparkling, literally, during the recent Film Academy of the Philippines awards night, where she was one of the hosts.

Beautiful and radiant in her lime green **Inno Sotto** gown, Ruffa looked every inch a beauty queen even after nearly a decade she was crowned Miss World Second Princess.

But what caught everybody's attention was Ruffa's jewelry. She created quite a stir with her diamond-studded earrings, necklace and bracelet.

We heard Ruffa's pair of 16-carat diamond earrings alone are worth P8.5 million, a gift from a former suitor. So if she dropped one earring and somebody picked it up, that person would have been an instant millionaire.

Ruffa was also wearing a Chopard watch that night, so all her jewelry must have been the envy of young and even veteran stars inside the UP Theater.

A source close to the actress told us Ruffa hardly buys jewelry even if her mom, **Annabelle Rama**, is obsessed with selling expensive diamond-studded pieces. Ruffa's jewelry sets are mostly gifts from her suitors.

Many also noticed Ruffa's gown that night and thought it was an imported creation by Versace or Escada. But *Tita* Annabelle proudly told us Ruffa wore an **Inno Sotto**.

Inno created a corset with Swarovski beads peeking from the low neckline.

Meanwhile, Ruffa's red gown was by **Nono Palmos**.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

Without Assunta

SEXY actress **Assunta de Rossi** does not have to worry when the Metropolitan Basketball Association opens its fifth season this Saturday, April 6 at the New Cebu City Coliseum.

The former girlfriend of MBA cager **Rommel Adducul** used to be a favorite pick to become a muse of one of the eight MBA teams. This year, however, the MBA decided to do away with the elaborate parade and opening ceremonies. So Assunta will no longer be tapped to grace the event as muse. And she need not worry about having to stand face to face with her former boyfriend.

Rommel is said to be smarting from the breakup of his relationship with Assunta, whose career took a turn for the better when she joined the bold bandwagon.

Today, Assunta is touted as the hottest screen sensation. She even won a best actress plum for her recent starrer, "Hubog," directed by **Joel Lamangan**.

Rommel, meanwhile, told a source that reconciling with Assunta at this point is rather farfetched. While Assunta is enjoying her stardom, Rommel will be busy playing for his new MBA team, Pangasinan Waves, after leaving Batangas Blades. He is also expected to lead Pangasinan Waves to the championship, just like what he did to the Batangas Blades, which won the MBA trophy last year.

With or without Assunta, MBA will take off and Rommel will play on the hardcourt, with or without an Assunta cheering for him on the sidelines.

The new MBA season will be aired on NBN 4.

Tribute to Rico

THE ABS-CBN tribute to **Rico Yan** doesn't stop. Last Sunday, "The Buzz" junked its Easter special taped from Fontana in Clark, Pampanga, and Lipa City, Batangas, to give way to a whole episode about Rico.

Boy Abunda even had an exclusive interview with Rico's girlfriend, **Claudine Barretto**, who cried the whole time she was talking about her late boyfriend.

Yesterday, "Magandang Tanghali, Bayan," where Rico was one of the cohosts, al so devoted its entire show on the actor. Footage of Rico's earlier stints in "Sang Linggo nApo Sila" and "G-mik" were shown and for sure it made even non-Rico fans teary-eyed.

The program featured interviews with Rico's cousins, his uncle, Gen. **Edgardo Aglipay** and wife **Maui**, his grandfather former Ambassador **Manuel Yan**, his bodyguard, driver and *yaya*—all of whom have only nice words to say about the 27-year-old actor.

Roderick Paulate announced it would be a week-long tribute to Rico on "MTB."

"The Correspondents," meanwhile, replayed on Monday night the September 1999 episode where Rico did a special report.

"Martin @ Late Night" did the same with **Martin Nievera**'s interview with the late actor.

Last night, "Pipol" also replayed **Ces Drilon**'s interview with Rico.

At 9 tonight, "Whattamen" will air a special tribute to Rico, with his costars **Marvin Agustin** and **Dominic Ochoa**.

"Jessica Soho Reports" will also tackle Rico's death tonight.

Monthly concert series

NATION Broadcasting Corporation executive **Marco Borlongan** is on his own when it comes to mounting the "Amazing Nights" series at The Tent.

Marco presents the shows under his Butterfly Productions, which took off last month with the first acoustic concert of pop idol **Gary Valenciano** with **Ryan Cayabyab**.

It helps that NBC also runs The Tent, so finding a good venue for "Amazing Nights" did not prove to be tough for Marco.

"The Tent is successful on its own for corporate shows, bazaars, parties, weddings, but I noticed there's no regular event that that public can look forward to," Marco explains. "I wanted something regular but NBC has no budget to produce a monthly show. I want The Tent to be a place where friends can gather for a night of musical entertainment."

For each "Amazing Nights" concert, The Tent is transformed into an intimate haven, with candle-lit coffee tables draped in Thai silk. An indoor landscape is accentuated by subdued lighting and made more dramatic by flora and fountains. Even the names for the table reservations are personalized.

"This is the kind of night that we want guests of 'Amazing Nights' to experience," Marco says. "It does not only mean good music, but also a classy ambiance and even good service."

The line-up includes "the best and distinguished artists," according to Marco. After Gary, this month's featured performers are versatile singers **Bituin Escalante** and **Anna Fegi**, who will share the stage with Ryan on April 10.

Marco does not expect "Amazing Nights" to make big bucks right away.

"We are happy to break even," he says. "The entire series will make money, but we don't expect to earn immediately with only one or two shows."

Future performers who will take centerstage at The Tent for "Amazing Nights" are **Ogie Alcasid**, **Kyla** and **Carol Banawa** for May; and **Lani Misalucha** in June.

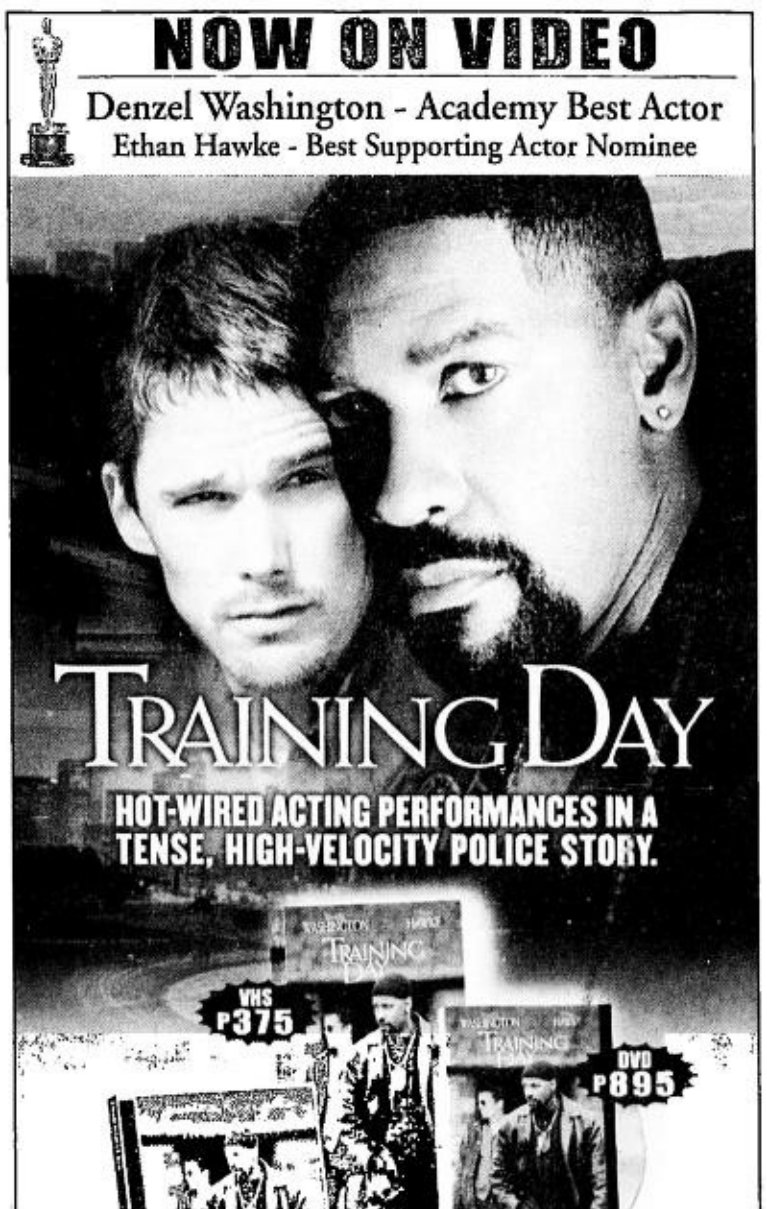
Ryan, meanwhile, is monthly musical director and pianist who will also get to perform with the artists featured in the series.

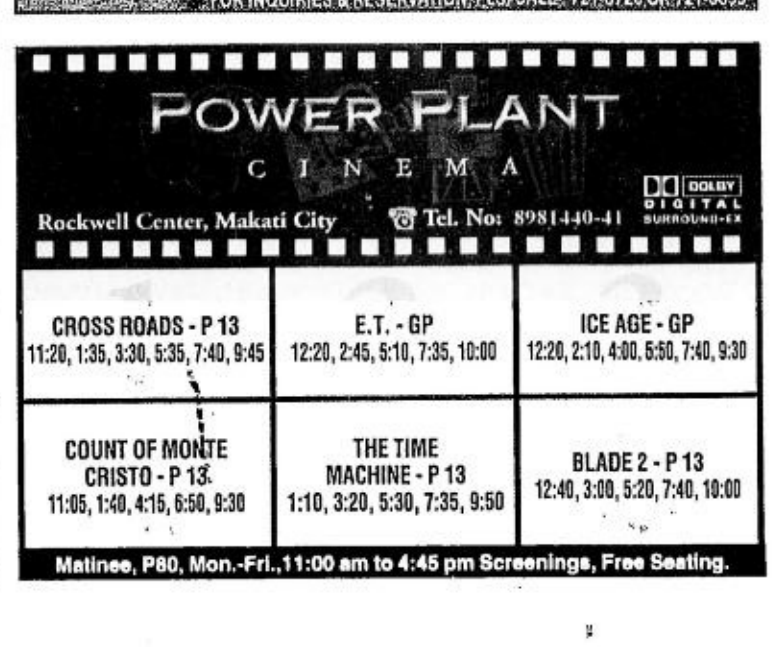
He describes Bituin and Anna as two of the most exciting vocal artists in the local entertainment scene today.

"You can't find someone like them," Ryan says. "They've created their own niche because of their own singing style. They're very versatile. When you talk about singing, their names are always there."

ACTRESS-BEAUTY queen Ruffa Gutierrez displays her expensive jewelry at the recent Film Academy of the Philippines awards night.

"AMAZING NIGHTS." Maestro Ryan Cayabyab with this month's featured performers—Anna Fegi (left) and Bituin Escalante.





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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

Black is beautiful —and powerful

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE 2001 Oscars will forever be known as the time when Hollywood's black and minority talents were finally and decisively given their due. The back-to-back victories of **Denzel Washington** and **Halle Berry** were a stunning one-two punch that rocked the US movie industry on its heels.

The big question now is, will those great, affirmative victories translate into consistently better roles *and* more job opportunities for Hollywood's minority workers? Only then will black be truly beautiful—and powerful—where the movies are concerned.

And, what about yellow, and brown, and all the other hues that now make up world cinema's rainbow of talents? Asian film workers are next on the launching pad, with a number of oriental directors now making movies in the west.

The Asian actors are also there, but their roles haven't been challenging or showy enough to do for them what "Training Day" and "Monster's Ball" have done for Denzel and Halle.

Now that some black actors have hit the top, our goal for the next Oscar awards is to see at least one Asian talent win big, either as best director or in one of the lead acting categories.

That'll take some doing—but, hey, the black talents have shown the way!

On Star Movies

STAR Movies' treats for April include (all screenings at 9 p.m.): Wednesday, April 3, "X-Men" with **Hugh Jackman**, **Patrick Stewart** and **Halle Berry**.

Thursday, April 4, "Bedazzled" with **Brendan Fraser** and **Elizabeth Hurley**.

Friday, April 5, "A Fish Called Wanda" with **John Cleese**, **Jamie Lee Curtis** and **Kevin Kline**. In this hilarious comedy, a gang of jewel thieves try to outwit one another in an attempt to keep the diamonds they have stolen for themselves and cut their partners out of the deal.

Tuesday, April 9, "The Joy Luck Club" with **Ming-Na**, **Tamlyn Tomita** and **Kieu Chinh**. The complex story of two generations of Chinese women and their American daughters unfolds when one is invited to join her late mother's *mahjong* group.

Monday, April 15, "Ace Ventura: Pet Detective" with **Jim Carrey** and **Courtney Cox**.

Tuesday, April 16, "Pacific Heights" with **Michael Keaton** and **Melanie Griffith**.

Thursday, April 18, "Mystery, Alaska" (11:15 p.m.) with **Russell Crowe**, **Hank Azaria** and **Burt Reynolds**. A publicity stunt turns into the ultimate lopsided competition when the world-famous New York Rangers hockey team faces off against a ragtag team from the small Alaskan town.

Saturday, April 20, "Thelma and Louise" with **Susan Sarandon**, **Geena Davis** and **Brad Pitt**. Two best friends, fed up with the men in their lives decide they need to get away for a weekend. However, events take place, from which there's no turning back, that change their fate forever.

Sunday, April 21, "Who Framed Roger Rabbit?" with **Bob Hoskins**. 'Toon town star Roger Rabbit thinks his wife Jessica is having an affair, so a detective is hired to snoop on her. However, when a murder occurs, Roger becomes the prime suspect in this groundbreaking movie that mixes 'toons and live actors.

Saturday, April 27, "The Last of the Mohicans" with **Daniel Day-Lewis** and **Madeleine Stowe**.

Sunday, April 28, "Being John Malkovich" with **John Cusack**, **Cameron Daiz** and **John Malkovich**. In this surreal comedy, a man discovers a portal that leads inside the head of actor John Malkovich. When the portal is turned into a moneymaking venture, people are soon lining up to try the experience— with hilarious consequences.

Monday, April 29, "Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls" with **Jim Carrey** and **Tommy Davidson**.

Feedback

FROM **Eufemia C. Estrada**: "If you watched 'The Weakest Link' last March 20, you too would have been shocked at what the losing contestant in Sudden Death had to say after she lost to her worthier opponent. Something like: *'Siyempre, ang mananalo ay yung mas nangangailangan.'*

What arrogance. What conceit!"

Search on for DJ Mix ladies

CALLING all party gals.

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DJ Mix Lemon Fresh Cigarettes launches the search for the DJ Mix Ladies of the Night. The search is open to all single ladies 18 to 28 years old, beautiful, with good moral character and audience appeal.

If you think you've got the look, the style and the attitude to be the DJ Mix Lady, then wear something lemony yellow when you attend the DJ Mix Rave party on April 6, at Fuente Circle, Eastwood City Walk in Libis, Quezon City.

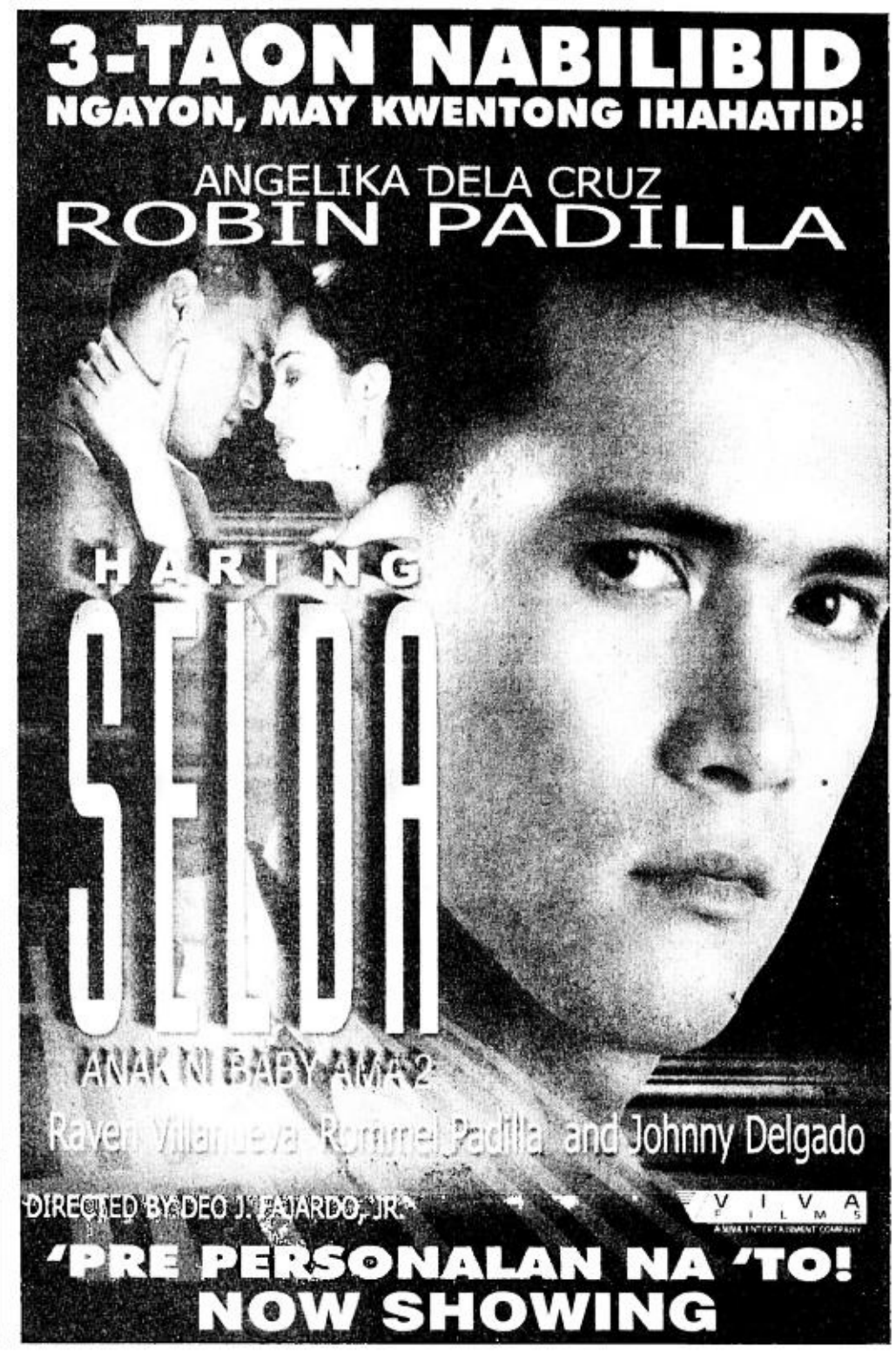
Fill-up the application form at the gate and submit a recent colored photo. You might be one of the three lucky ladies who will endorse the new fresh puff made especially for the rave party girl.

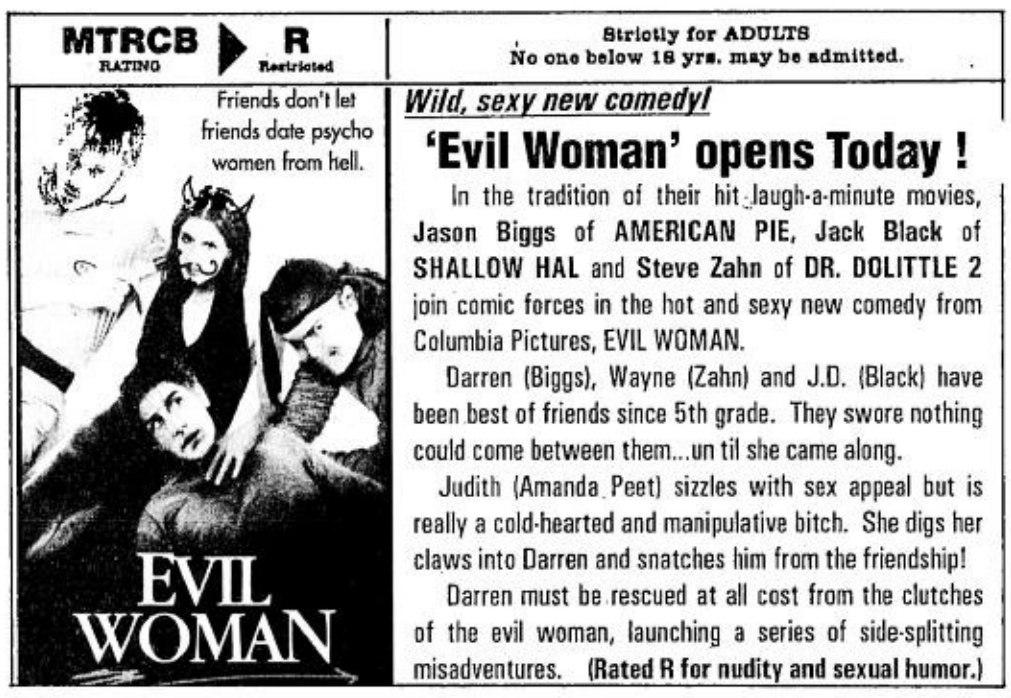
An all-expense paid trip to Hong Kong with pocket money also awaits the winner in the glamorous tilt.

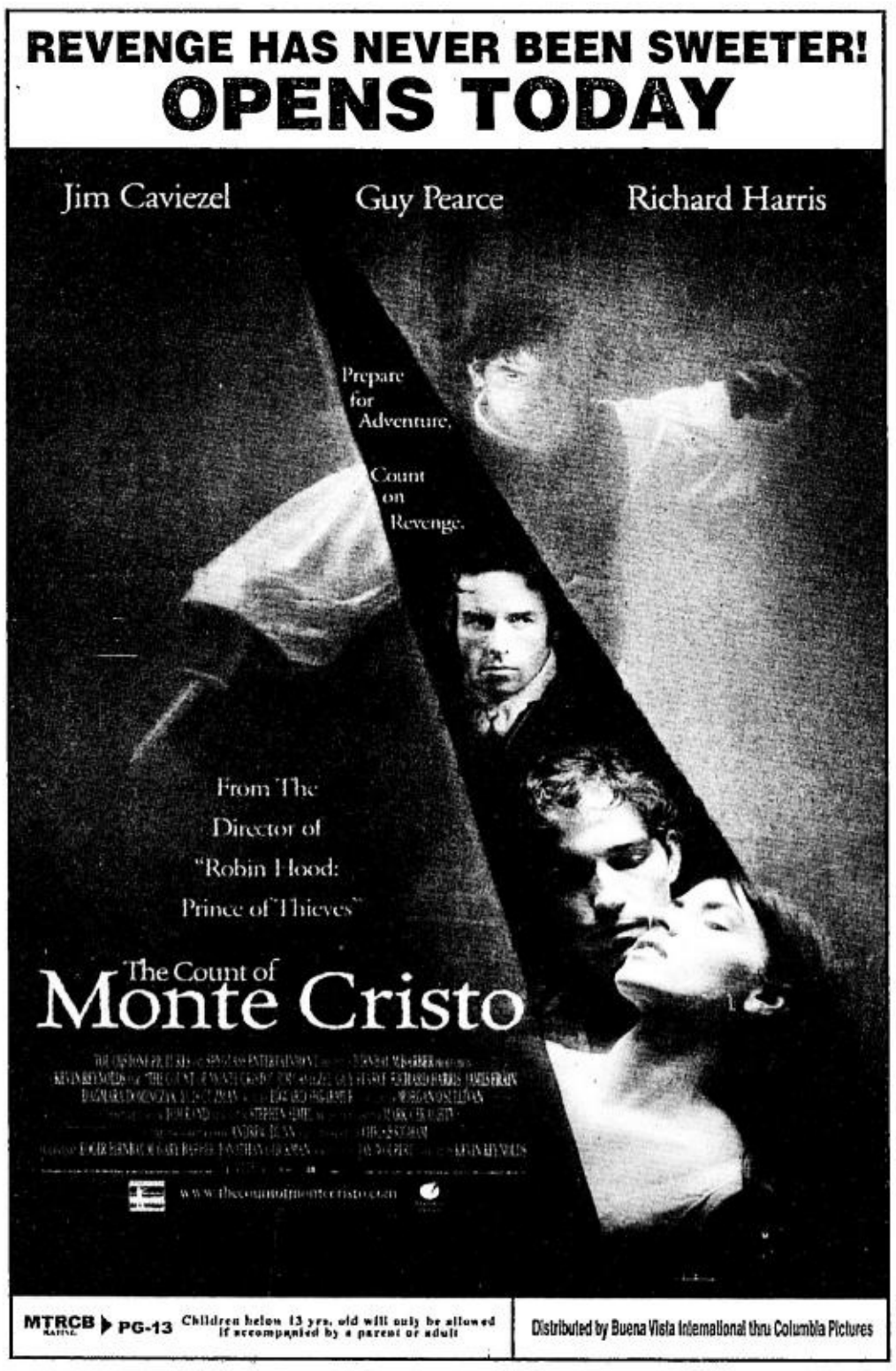
For more details call Tactica Ads at 671-9795-967 and look for Louie or Maricel.

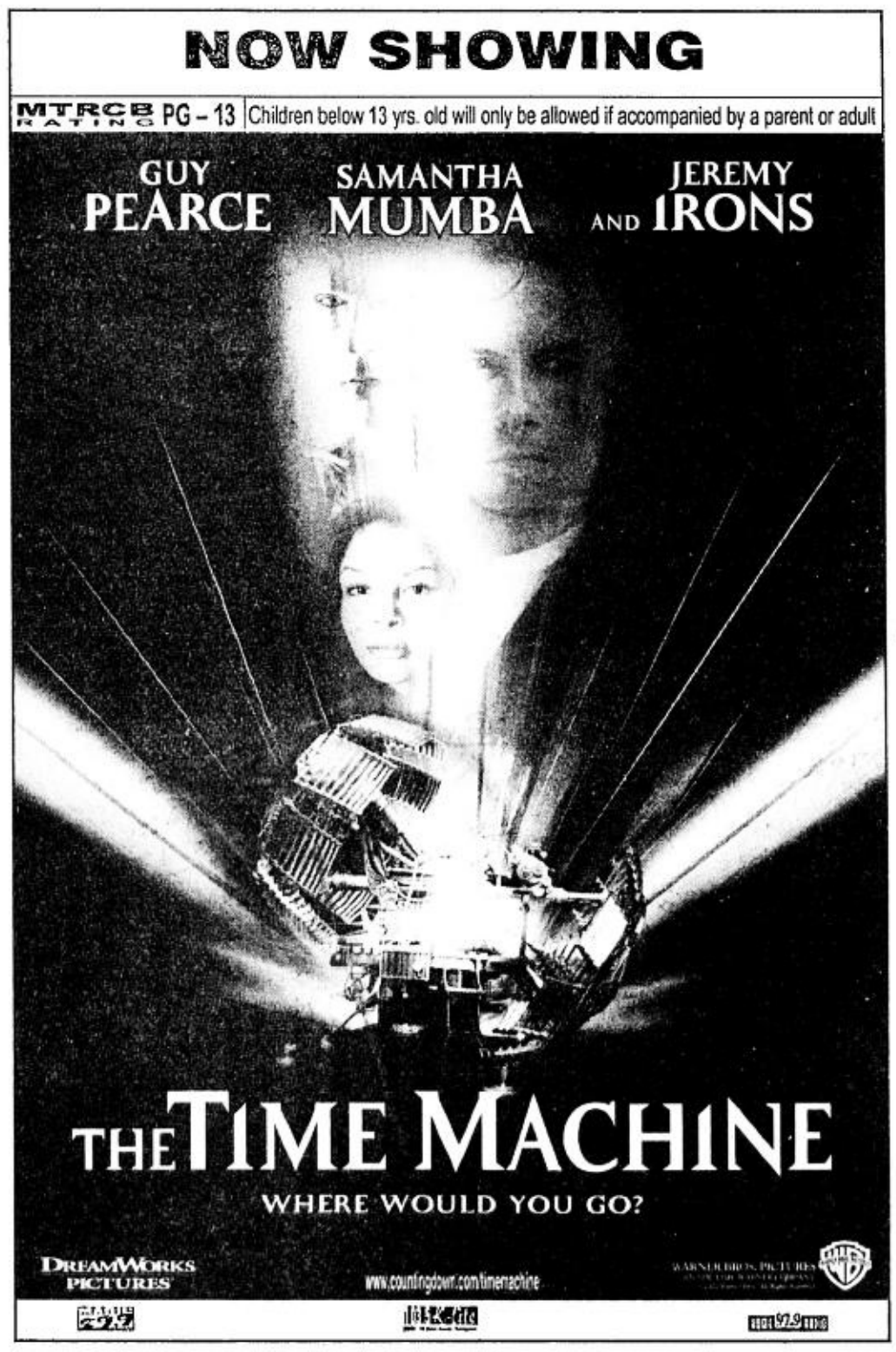
The DJ Mix Lemon Fresh Cigarettes Rave party is in cooperation with Eastwood City Walk and 89.9 dwTM.

The DJ Mix Lemon Fresh Cigarettes event is open to rave party lovers, 18 years old and above.









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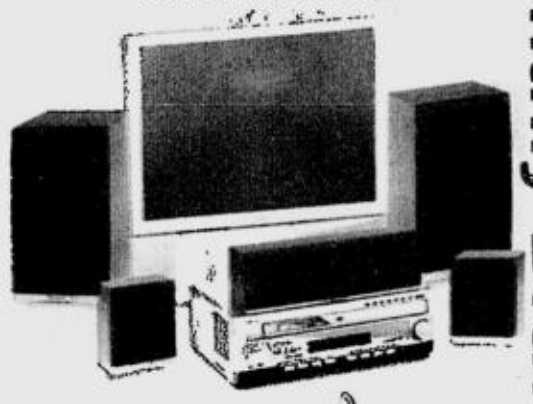

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Draw Date	Prize	No. of Winners
April 9	₱300 worth of call and text credit	500
16		500
23		500
30		500
May 7	₱300 worth of call and text credit	500
14		500
21		500
28		500
June 4	₱300 worth of call and text credit	500
11		500
18		500
25		500
July 2		500

Monthly Draws

Draw Date	Prize	No. of Winners
May 7	Home Theater* or Digital** Showcase	1
June 4	Home Theater* or Digital** Showcase	1
July 2	Home Theater* or Digital** Showcase	1

Grand Draw

Draw Date	Prize	No. of Winners
July 2	SUV of your choice***	1

*Home Theater Showcase: Philips 127 cm. (50") Projection TV and Pioneer HTZ 77 Home Theater (DVD, VCD, and CD-capable) with MP3 Player and 5.1 speaker system

**Digital Showcase: DCR-TRV30 Sony Video Camera, Compaq IPAQ, Canon A10 Digital Still Camera, and a Sony Playstation 2

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See flyers for more details. Per DTI NCR Permit No. 0581 Series of 2002

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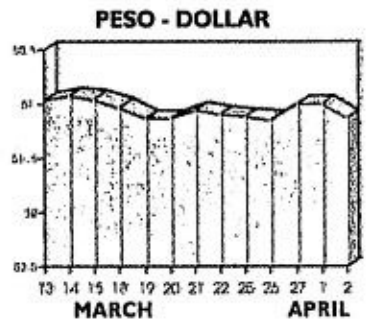
Cement firms face landmark cartel lawsuit

INDICATORS



GRAPHS BY SAMMY REINOSO

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱51.14 = $1
As of 5 p.m., April 2, 2002

¥133.28 = $1
As of 5 p.m., April 2, 2002

GOLD: $302.80/303.30
per ounce Hong Kong, April 2, 2002

Stocks end up 1.91%

STOCKS snapped out of a three-day losing streak yesterday to end 1.91 percent higher as index heavyweight PLDT helped pull the market from the doldrums, analysts said.

The main index closed 26.65 points or 1.91 percent higher at 1,422.75 points as PLDT, the country's dominant telecom provider, gained 4.72 percent to P555.

Value turnover rose 118 percent to P672.27 million from P308.35 million on Monday.

Gainers beat losers 40 to 25 and there were 35 stocks unchanged. *Reuters*

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

CONSUMER groups are set to file a landmark "cartel case" against the Big Three cement makers—Holcim, Cemex, and La Farge-Blue Circle—for allegedly colluding to jack up cement prices since they took control of 89 percent of local production capacity since 1998.

The Confederation of Homeowners Association for Reforms in Governance and Environment (Charge), the Consumers Union of the Philippines (CUP), and the Philippine Consumer Watch Foundation will use the Price Act of 1991 or RA 7581 as the basis to prove that the Big Three was managing the market as a cartel.

A cartel is defined under the Price Act as any combination or agreement between two or more persons engaged in the production or sale of prime commodities such as cement designed to artificially and unreasonably increase or manipulate prices. This will be the first time that a cartel case will be tried in the courts.

A prima facie evidence of engaging in cartel is when two entities competing for the same market perform or undertake a common strategy to lessen competition in the market and unreasonably boost prices.

In the cement industry's case, the consumer groups are claiming that the Big Three have connived to reduce their capacity and divide the country among themselves, alleging that this led to the skyrocketing of prices from a low of P47 per bag in December 1998 to P135 to P145 per bag last month.

The consumer groups also claimed that the commitment made by the Big Three to keep cement prices between P125 and 135 per bag in exchange for government protection proved that they "could talk among themselves and reduce prices simultaneously."

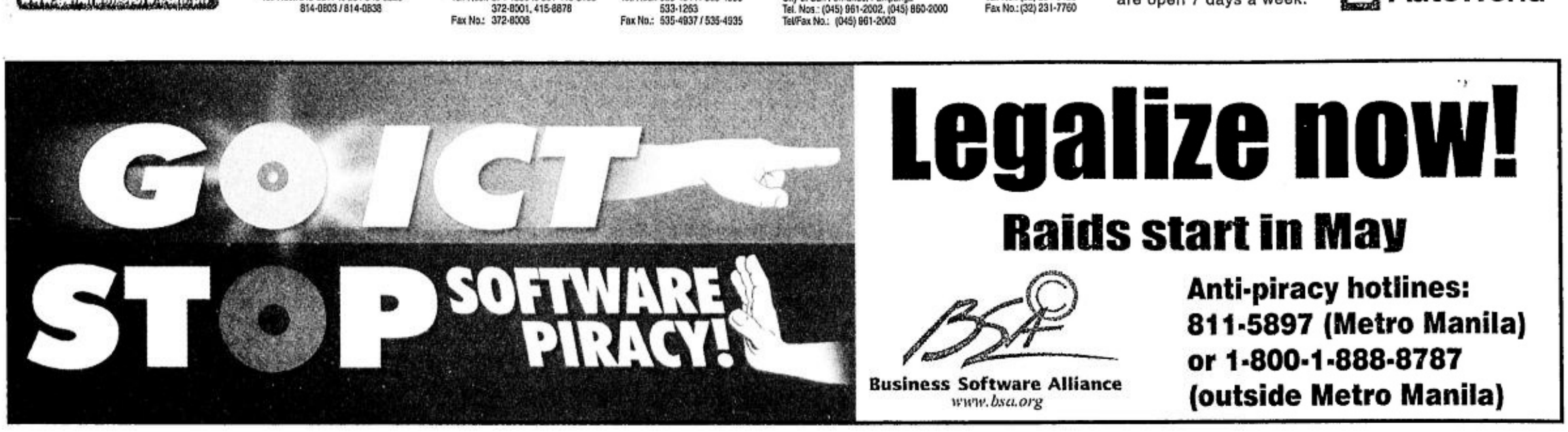
A position paper drafted by economists of Ateneo, the University of the Philippines, and the University of Asia and the Pacific assailed the Big Three's strategy of "colluding among themselves to fix prices and invoke protection at all costs to ward off competition from imports."

The economists said the Department of Trade and Industry's unwavering support for the industry "has emboldened the (cement firms) to continue to lobby for protection and safeguards for a much longer period." The economists cheered the Tariff Commission for its "firm and transparent recommendation" against protecting the cement cartel despite the tremendous lobby of the Big Three.

CUP president Quirino Marquinez accused Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II of acting as lawyer of the cement industry at the expense of the consuming public.

Marquinez said that if the government was too "weak" to break down the cartel, the country needed to import cement to provide competition in the market similar to Roxas' move to encourage drug importation to bring down prices of medicine.

Consumer groups have decided to resort to court action in breaking down the alleged cement cartel after congressional investigations failed to prosper beyond the initial stages.



DMCI seeks to restructure P2.4B in debts, offers options

By Doris C. Dumlao

DMCI Holdings Inc., the flagship construction firm of the Consunji family, is seeking the restructuring of P2.4 billion worth of convertible preferred shares due for redemption on April 8, citing financial constraints.

In a disclosure, DMCI chief finance officer Herbert Consunji informed the Philippine Stock Exchange that the company "will not be able to wholly redeem the preferred shares as required under the original issue terms and conditions."

He said the company would instead offer bondholders with four alternative options on how these debts would be addressed.

The options differed mainly in mode of payment, valuation of preferred shares, tenor, interest and type of security.

The first option is the purchase from the holders by DMCI of the preferred shares at P1,000 each. DMCI will issue a five-year promissory note, with a grace period on principal payments for the first two years of the obligation.

Interest will be based on the 91-day treasury bill rate plus a spread of 2 percentage point.

This option would be secured by real estate mortgage on selected properties with a loan value of over 60 percent of the appraised value.

In the event that the secured properties are sold, 60 percent of the sale proceeds will be applied to the whole or partial prepayment of the loan without prepayment penalty.

The second option is the purchase from the holders by DMCI Property Developers Inc. of the preferred shares at P1,367 each. DMCI Property will issue a seven-year promissory note, with a grace period on principal payments for the first three years of the obligation. Interest will depend on the 91-day T-bill rate plus a spread of 3 percentage.

Security on the second option will also be in the form of real estate mortgage on provincial properties, likewise with a loan value of 60 percent of the appraised value of the property or a chattel mortgage on equipment and inventory with a loan value of 50 percent of appraised values.

In the event that the secured properties are sold, 60 percent of the proceeds will also be applied to the whole or partial prepayment of the loan without prepayment penalty.

The two other options were:

0 The preferred shares would be exchanged at P1,100 per share for certain residential and office units at selling price; and,

0 The holding company would redeem the preferred shares for cash at a price of P775 per share or equivalent to the closing price up to a maximum of P72 million.

PSE won't contest Itogon Suyoc ruling

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange said yesterday it would not challenge an order from the Securities and Exchange Commission clearing the listing of shares issued by Itogon Suyoc Mines Inc. to technology firm Philweb.Com Inc.

PSE Chair Vivian Yuchengco also told reporters that she asked the newly appointed chair of the PSE's listing committee, former Philippine National Bank president Peter Favila, to review the stock exchange's listing guidelines.

Favila was specifically requested to take into account reforms suggested by former Finance Minister Roberto Ongpin, majority owner of Philweb.

Among the reforms suggested by Ongpin was to revamp the PSE's listing committee and adopt a scheme used by the Hong Kong Stock Exchange where members of the committee would come from different sectors.

"Our agreement even during the previous board was that we would not go for a lawsuit against the SEC. We would go for a petition for reconsideration but not a lawsuit," Yuchengco told reporters.

PSE director Robert Coyiuto, however, reminded Yuchengco of a similar case involving the listing of shares by Puerto Azul Land Inc. where the PSE got a favorable ruling from the Supreme Court after it was overruled by the SEC.

Coyiuto stressed that the PSE, being a self-regulatory organization with the power to formulate its own programs and police its own ranks, should uphold its position by going to the court.

Otherwise, he warned, the case would be a precedent and justify SEC intervention in key decisions by the PSE.

The SEC earlier ordered the PSE to clear the way for the listing of new shares issued by Itogon Suyoc to Philweb, rejecting the bourse's appeal against the transaction.

In its ruling, the SEC determined that Itogon Suyoc, which sold a 40-percent stake to Philweb, "badly needed to seek investments and additional capital infusion to resurrect its operations."

The stock exchange's general rule is that the issuer must undertake a stock rights offering as a requirement before it can list additional shares to ensure that the rights of the minority are protected.

Itogon Suyoc sought an exemption from this rule, citing its situation as a moribund company and arguing that a rights offering was impossible since no underwriter would be willing to assume the risks.

"We, therefore, find Itogon Suyoc's request for exemption from the rule to be reasonable," the SEC said, noting that about 91 percent of Itogon Suyoc's stockholders had already approved the deal with Philweb and waived their preemptive rights to a stock rights offering.

GG & A Club Shares

SEC License Broker #007575 * As of April 3, 2002

CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,700,000	1,800,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	1,600,000	Please Call
Baguio Country Club	700,000	750,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	80,000	90,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	100,000
Camp John Hay	250,000	280,000
Canlubang	600,000	Please Call
Canyonwoods	Please Call	330,000
Capitol Hills	125,000	135,000
Celebrity Sports Club	165,000	190,000
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	Please Call	Please Call
Evercrest "A"	-	100,000
Forest Hills "A"	200,000	230,000
Forest Hills "B"	250,000	280,000
Forest Hills "C"	-	270,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	250,000	280,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	270,000	375,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	15,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	10,000,000	11,000,000
Manila Polo	2,600,000	Please Call
Manila Southwoods "A"	600,000	640,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	680,000	750,000
Metropolitan Club "B"	-	140,000
Montemar (Individual)	-	30,000
Montemar (Corp)	50,000	
Mt. Malarayat	-	350,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"	220,000	250,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	230,000	300,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	310,000	500,000
Philippine Columbian	-	85,000
Pueblo de Oro "A"/"B"/"C"	-	Please Call
Puerto Azul	-	125,000
Quezon City Sports Club	200,000	230,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"	-	Please Call
Rockwell	Please Call	550,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	150,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,700,000	1,900,000
Sta. Elena "B"	1,925,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	330,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	190,000
Tagaytay Country Club	410,000	-
Tagaytay Highlands	850,000	Please Call
Tagaytay Midlands	780,000	850,000
The Country Club	Please Call	Please Call
Valle Verde (Individual)	150,000	180,000
Valley Golf	230,000	-
Wack-Wack Golf Club	7,000,000	7,200,000

PLAYING RIGHTS (Available Lessors)

Alabang "A"	25,000	Mimosa Golf	25,000
Calatagan "A"	10,000	Orchard "A"	30,000
Canlubang	60,000	Riviera "A"	15,000
Eagleridge	15,000	Sta. Elena	60,000
Eastridge "A"	20,000	Tagaytay CC	20,000
Forest Hills	30,000	Tagaytay Golf	45,000
Manila Southwoods	20,000	Tagaytay Mid.	35,000
Makati Sports "A"	25,000	Valley Golf	20,000
Manila Golf	300,000	Wack-Wack	90,000

For more information, please call:
MAKATI 840-1761 • Fax 894-3021 / 750-7894
ALABANG 850-8223 • Fax 772-1817
or e-mail at: ggashare@mozcom.com
Penthouse, Pacific Star Bldg., Sen Gil Puyat cor. Makati Ave., Makati City

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Qualcomm 'in talks' with Piltel

US TELECOMMUNICATIONS firm Qualcomm is currently holding "exploratory talks" with Pilipino Telephone Corp. for a possible partnership, according to a senior telecommunications official.

In an interview on Monday, National Telecommunications Commission chief Eliseo Rio Jr. said a number of US and European firms, including Qualcomm, had expressed interest in investing in the local telecommunications sector.

Rio said Qualcomm, a Fortune 500 company, was looking into laying down next-generation telecommunications facilities in the Philippines.

Qualcomm pulled out of a potential partnership with Piltel several years ago.

Rio said talks between Qualcomm and Piltel were still "exploratory" in nature, but that the two companies had been discussing a possible partnership for several months now.

Qualcomm was initially interested in providing telecommunications equipment to Piltel, but that the partnership could go deeper than that of a supplier and a client, he disclosed.

He added that Qualcomm also considered forging an alliance with analog cellular service provider Express Telecommunications Co. Inc. but dropped it when its equipment did not match those of Extelcom's.

"It was supposed to be Extelcom, but Qualcomm's equipment were not compatible with Extelcom's infrastructure," he said.

Abigail L. Ho

Cap on deductible expenses seen

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance plans to further boost revenue collection by putting a cap on tax deductible business expenses, according to a person familiar with the matter.

The financial official said the cap on tax deductible business expenses, such as interest and amortization, would be on top of a planned ceiling on tax deductions from representation, advertising and transportation expenses to be finalized in a revenue regulation in the first half of the year.

"We are taking it (revenue regulations) one at a time," the official said.

Under the comprehensive tax reform program, the finance secretary, upon recommendation of the Bureau of Internal Revenue commissioner, may prescribe ceilings for tax deductible business expenses.

The finance department recently dropped a plan to set an across-the-board 50-percent ceiling on corporate tax deductions involving representation and advertising expenses given that the level of the expenses differed greatly per industry.

Robinsons Bank sees bigger network

ROBINSONS Bank, banking unit of JG Summit Holdings Inc., is set to open five new branches this year, raising its network to 32 branches.

Robinsons Bank earlier acquired ABN AMRO Savings Bank's branch network, making it the Philippines' seventh-largest thrift bank with assets of P7 billion.

JG Summit president and Robinsons Bank chair Lance Gokongwei did not disclose the acquisition cost but said the purchase included the deposit portfolio of AASB's branches.

Robinsons Bank already has seven branches.

Robinsons Bank registered a net income of P74 million last year for an industry-high return on equity of almost 12 percent. Its asset quality is among the highest, defined by a 2.5-percent non-performing loan portfolio, one of the industry's lowest, if not the lowest.

Robinsons Bank now handles the domestic banking requirements of the JG Summit group after the conglomerate sold its controlling interest in two profitable and stable universal banks at the time—Far East Bank and Trust Co. and PCIBank.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Tuesday, April 2, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5	5	5	5	4,000
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	99	99	99	99	600
Bank of the Phil. Islands	67	68	67	67.5	642,400
China Banking Corp.	615	620	615	615	7,590
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	3,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	36	38	36	38	349,600
First E-Bank Corp.	2.36	2.36	2.32	2.34	112,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	43.5	44	43.5	44	119,400
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	16,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	21	21.5	21	21.5	23,300
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	30,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	220	245	220	245	400
Manulife Financial Corp.	1280	1305	1280	1305	160
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	30,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1055	1055	1055	1055	100
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	34	36	34	36	94,700
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.68	0.71	0.68	0.7	4,250,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	795	805	795	805	8,000
Ipeople Inc.	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	100,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	5,300,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	30,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3	3	3	3	5,000
Piltel	0.45	0.51	0.45	0.51	6,810,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	530	555	530	555	152,920
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.021	0.021	0.02	0.021	44,300,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	30	31	30	31	74,800
Manila Electric Co. B	44	47	44	47	452,300
Petron Corp.	1.76	1.78	1.72	1.74	8,944,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.88	164,798,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	130,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.48	2.55	2.48	2.55	2,678,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.34	0.4	0.34	0.39	560,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	80,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.25	0.3	0.25	0.3	80,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.7	5.8	3.45	5.8	49,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13	13	13	13	136,100
RFM Corp.	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	955,000
Swift Food Inc.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	19,000
San Miguel Corp. A	47	47.5	47	47.5	160,500
San Miguel Corp. B	62	64	62	64	77,100
Universal Robina Corp.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	2,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	230,000
Ayala Corp.	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.4	7,341,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.92	2.02	1.92	2.02	176,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.71	0.71	0.69	0.69	310,000
APC Group Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	40,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	4,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	3	3.15	3	3.15	24,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	50,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	600
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.78	0.8	0.78	0.8	1,840,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	1,040,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	360,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	10,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.2	1.22	210,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	30.5	31	30.5	31	280,100
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	270,000
Ionics Inc.	7.5	7.8	7.5	7.8	12,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	25,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.86	0.87	0.86	0.87	680,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.58	0.6	190,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.31	720,000
Music Corp.	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.31	1,740,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	600,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	20,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION& TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	10,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	13	13.25	13	13.25	15,300
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Bells Corp.	0.58	0.61	0.57	0.61	22,420,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	40,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	34.5	36.5	34.5	36.5	339,000
Equitable PCI Bank-Warr	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72	36,000
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	790	790	790	790	3,500
Jollibee Warrants	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	82,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	30,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.9	2,083,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	50,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	1,050,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.47	0.49	0.47	0.49	5,710,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	680,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.3	2.36	2.3	2.36	2,628,000
SM Development Corp.	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	10,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.7	6.7	6.5	6.6	4,143,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	1,000,000
Urbancorp Realty Dev. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	20,000
MINING					
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.044	0.044	0.043	0.043	37,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.215	0.22	0.215	0.22	4,600,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.225	0.24	0.225	0.24	2,490,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	16,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	1,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	380,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.28	0.3	0.28	0.3	970,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	5,000,000
Pacifica	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	7,000,000
Sinophil Corp. .06	50 .07	0.065	0.07	3,2	00,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.19	0.19	0.18	0.18	400,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,338,550	67,680,620.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	313,516,420	552,243,925.00
PRO	17,374,000	51,030,360.00
Mining	62,440,000	3,617,650.00
OIL	16,600,000	435,000.00
GRAND TOTALS:	411,268,970	675,007,555.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	584.02	UP 7.77
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,936.10	UP 40.11
PRO	616.90	UP 5.84
Mining	1,416.58	UP 69.40
OIL	1.50	DOWN 0.02
All Shares Index	750.97	UP 2.90
Composite	1,422.75	UP 26.65

NO. OF ADVANCES: 40; NO. OF DECLINES: 25; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 35; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 100; NO. OF TRADES: 2,311

CURRENCIES

Apr-02-2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.135589	1.000000	50.9970
Japan	Yen	0.008515	0.007498	0.3824
United Kingdom	Pound	1.635022	1.439800	73.4255
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.145603	0.128218	6.5387
Switzerland	Franc	0.683514	0.601902	30.6952
Canada	Dollar	0.710676	0.625821	31.9150
Singapore	Dollar	0.614830	0.541419	27.6107
Australia	Dollar	0.607267	0.534759	27.2711
Bahrain	Dinar	3.012334	2.652661	135.2778
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.302816	0.266660	13.5989
Brunei	Dollar	0.613169	0.539957	27.5362
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000117	0.000103	0.0053
Thailand	Baht	0.026057	0.022946	1.1702
UAE	Dirham	0.309172	0.272257	13.8843
Korea	Won	0.000862	0.000759	0.0387
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.880600	44.9080
Brazil	Real	0.488426	0.430108	21.9342
Denmark	Kroner	0.133835	0.117855	6.0103
India	Rupee	0.023303	0.020521	1.0465
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.298839	0.263158	13.4203
Mexico	New Peso	0.126148	0.111086	5.6651
New Zealand	Dollar	0.502273	0.442302	22.5561
Norway	Kroner	0.129876	0.114369	5.8325
Pakistan	Rupee	0.018958	0.016694	0.8513
South Africa	Rand	0.100317	0.088339	4.5050
Sweden	Kroner	0.110973	0.097723	4.9836
Syria	Pound	0.022050	0.019417	0.9902
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.032538	0.028653	1.4612
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001234	0.001087	0.0554

DMCI HOLDINGS INCORPORATED

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF PREFERRED SHAREHOLDERS

Dear Stockholders:

Please be notified that there will be a Special Meeting of Preferred Shareholders of DMCI Holdings, Inc. this coming Friday, **April 5, 2002.** The meeting will be held at 3:00 P.M. at the Universal Business Club, 4th Floor, Equitable Bank Building, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City. The meeting will discuss the various options offered by the Company/available to investors for the redemption of the Company's outstanding Preferred Shares.

(Sgd.) NOEL A. LAMAN
Corporate Secretary

PCA slams Canberra

THE PHILIPPINE Coconut Authority has accused Australia of unfairly blocking Philippines access to its coconut fiber market.

In a statement, the PCA slammed Canberra for giving preferential treatment to coconut fiber from Sri Lanka over those from the Philippines.

The agency reported that Philippine coconut fiber exports to Australia has been steadily dropping over the last five years.

DISCLOSURES

DMCI Holdings Inc. will hold a special meeting on April 5 at the Universal Business Club of the Equitable Bank Tower in Makati to discuss an exchange offer.

* * *

STENIEL Manufacturing Corp. has disclosed that it will streamline its operations by allowing its subsidiary—**Metro Paper Packaging Products Inc.**—to service the requirements of its customers in Mindanao. It also announced that it would lay off workers at another unit, **Steniel Mindanao Packaging Corp.**

* * *

REPUBLIC Glass Holdings Corp. will hold its annual stockholders meeting on May 28, 3 p.m., at the 5th Floor of the Republic Glass Corp. Building in Makati City. Record date is May 3.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.** has approved the appointment of Mahito Kageyama as an advisory board member. ***Compiled by Ray Leyesa, PDI Research***

Gov't to develop Sangley into shipping, air hub

By Abigail L. Ho

THE GOVERNMENT is set to develop the Sangley Point Naval Base in Cavite as the country's next modern shipping and air transport support facility to decongest the already crowded Manila International port.

In a statement yesterday, Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez said this development would complement his department's program to set up major support facilities for the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3, which is set to start operations in December.

Right now, part of the Nayong Pilipino had to be given up for the new airport terminal as it needed more space to become the world-class airport facility it was envisioning.

Around 4,000 Pasay City High School students may also find themselves without classrooms, especially during the rainy season as the Naia Terminal 3 project may require them to relocate to a flood-prone portion of the Villamor Air Base.

Aside from someday being able to house a major air transport support facility, Sangley Point could also take over the Manila South Harbors' facilities, devoting the existing Manila Port (both North and South Harbors) to domestic shipping.

At present, the North Harbor is the only port servicing the domestic market. International cargo and passenger traffic are handled at the South Harbor by Asian Terminals Inc., while international containers are handled at the Manila International Container Terminals by the International Container Terminals Services Inc.

Modern shipping facilities in Cavite could also provide Southern Tagalog locators and investors with a major transshipment point for their exports.

"The development of the naval base into a modern shipping and air transport support facility would boost the country's aspirations to become Asia's center for shipping and air transportation," Alvarez said.

He added that the planned Light Rail Transit South Extension project could help hasten Sangley Point's development as it would give commuters easier access to Cavite from Manila.

The project would extend the existing LRT Line 1 from Baclaran to Bacoor in Cavite, and eventually to Imus and Dasmariñas also in Cavite.

For the planned development project, Alvarez said the Sangley Point Development Authority would be created.

The project itself was suggested by Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes to President Macapagal-Arroyo in a Cabinet meeting last week.

L&MMAXCO

L&M-MAXCO Company, Inc. one of the leading construction firms included in the Top 500 Corporations of the Philippines, with "AAA" license category and global network of offices in the Far East, South East Asia and the Pacific Region.

INVITES QUALIFIED SUBCONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS

DISCIPLINE:

1. Masonry Works
2. Painting Works
3. Tiling Works
4. Tinsmithry Works
5. Ceiling Works
6. Gypsum/Drywall Partition Works
7. All other Discipline in Architectural and Structural Works
8. Suppliers on all Construction Materials
9. Metal Fabrication
10. Water Proofing Works
11. Finishing Wood Works
12. Aluminum and Glazing Works
13. Structural Steel Works
14. MEP Works

Interested contractors and suppliers shall submit their duly accomplished prequalification documents to the following officer and location:

Attention: ENGR. TING G. ANGELES, Contracts/Purchasing Officer
THE CONTRACTS/PURCHASING DEPARTMENTS
5TH Floor Fortune Office Building
160 Legaspi Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel. No. 891-3653 to 56, Fax No. 891-3658

"Nothing comes closer to my own hair than CTR!"

JEMUEL with baldness

Jemuel Aguayo
Dentist

"When my hair started to thin out, I became more concerned with how I looked. I didn't want to be known as 'the bald one' among my colleagues. To restore my hair, I tried **Cosmetic Transdermal Reconstruction (CTR) at Svenson International.**

"Unlike wigs and toupees, CTR not only looks natural---it also feels real, too! My friends and colleagues say I did the right thing to get help for my hair problem at Svenson because I look younger and much better now. **For me, CTR is really the closest thing to having a full head of natural hair again!"**

NOW, with the amazingly realistic CTR

Svenson
INTERNATIONAL
YOUR CHOICE NOT TO BE BALD

Certified by ASI Asian Society of Trichology

NEW LOCATION				
MAKATI	QUEZON CITY	BINONDO	ALABANG	CEBU
GT Tower, Ayala Ave. cor. H.V. dela Costa St.	Cedar Executive Bldg., Timog Avenue	Federal Tower Bldg., Dasmariñas St.	Citibank-Frabelle Bldg., Alabang-Zapote Rd.	Keppel Centre, Cebu City
819-3336	372-6631	243-0128	842-1389	032-2340851
816-1260	372-6632	244-8913	842-4181	032-2340853

MON. - FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SATURDAY (8 AM - 3 PM)

LOW Capital, HIGH income business

AKITA TERIYAKI GRILL
DINE-IN & GRILL-TO-GO
• CHICKEN • BEEF • SEAFOODS • PORK

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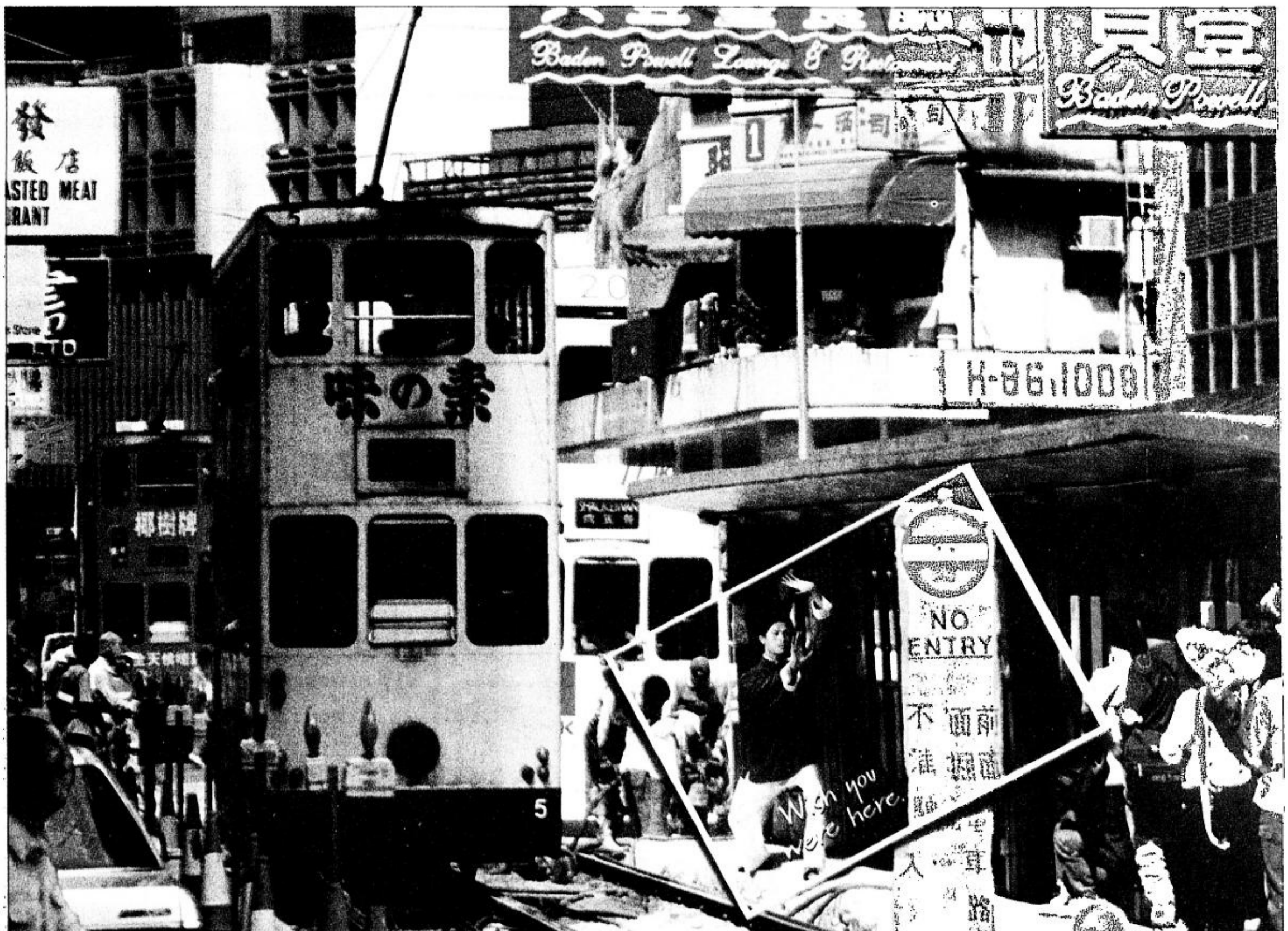

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD
OLD MIA ROAD, PASAY CITY
METRO MANILA

IN RE: APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY TO OPERATE AS AN INTERNATIONAL AIRFREIGHT FORWARDER

AMCO CARGO SYSTEMS, INC.
Applicant,

CAB CASE NO. 21382

NOTICE OF HEARING

Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 776, as amended, notice is hereby given that **AMCO CARGO SYSTEMS, INC.** has filed an application before the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) for an Authority to Operate as an International Airfreight Forwarder. The initial hearing of the above-entitled case will be held on 11 April 2002 at 10:00 AM at the Conference Room of the CAB, Old MIA Road, Pasay City before the undersigned Hearing Officer, at which hearing, the applicant shall present its evidence.

The applicant is hereby required to have this Notice of Hearing published once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation, or that copies thereof and the application be sent to existing CAB certified airfreight forwarders either by personal service or with a registered mail with return card at least three (3) days before the scheduled hearing.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition on or before the date of the hearing, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant and appear at the hearing with such evidence as may be proper in the premises. Failure on the part of any interested party to file its opposition on time and appear at the hearing will be construed as a waiver of its right to be heard and the Civil Aeronautics Board will proceed to hear and decide this application on its merits.

Let a copy of the Application and this Notice be posted at the CAB Bulletin Board beginning today.

21 March 2002
Pasay City, Philippines.

(Sgd.) MANUEL A. MORENTE, JR.
Chief, Legal & Enforcement Division

(PDI – Mar. 27 & Apr. 3, 2002)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

MARA PAWNSHOP BR. of 2410-18 P. Gil St. Sta. Ana Manila. Auction Sale on Apr. 10, 2002, Wed. at 2:30 in the afternoon, respectively, Nov. 12-Dec. 10, 2001.
Sons of J. Lanuza, Auctioneer

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AUCTION SALE on Apr. 10, 2002, Wed. at 10:30, 11:30, 1:30, 12:30 and 8:30 in the morning and on the afternoon, respectively Nov. 12-Dec. 10, 2001.
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MI MARA PAWNSHOP of 251 Quirino Ave. Baclaran, P'que M.M. Auction Sale on Apr. 10, 2002, Wed.. at 4:00 in the afternoon, respectively, Nov. 12-Dec. 10, 2001.
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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late RICO H. GUARIN has been settled extrajudicially among his heirs per Doc No. 441, Page No. 08, Book No. 51, Series of 2002 before Notary Public Atty. Patria G. Abella
(PDI- April 3, 10, &17 2002)

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(University of the City of Manila)
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INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

All interested bidders are invited to pre-qualify and participate in a sealed bidding for the replacement of the roofing of the College of Medicine, Gusaling Maynila.

Contractors with PCAB License Category C and IAC Category Small B (minimum) and have previously undertaken comparable projects may secure pre-qualification documents from the Office of the Vice-President for Academic Affairs (OVPAA), after paying the non-refundable fee of five hundred pesos (P500.00). Duly accomplished forms together with the required pre-qualification statements/documents are to be submitted not later than April 10, 2002.

PLM reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids to waive any informality found therein or to accept such bids as may be considered advantageous to the University.

(Sgd.) VIRGINIA N. SANTOS
Chairman, Prequalification, Evaluation, Bidding and Awards Committee

(PDI - April 3, 2002)

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY
March 16, 2002

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The National Housing Authority is inviting interested parties to pre-qualify and to bid for the Strength Evaluation of the President Macapagal (Fort Bonifacio) Tenement located at Taguig, Metro Manila.

Interested parties must be a structural engineering consultant/firm specializing in structural investigation/evaluation of existing concrete structures and knowledgeable in the analytical investigation Method of strength evaluation as prescribed in the National Structural Code of the Philippines (NSCP).

SCOPE OF WORKS:

1. Conduct thorough field investigation as to the dimensions and details of members, properties of materials and other pertinent conditions of the 7-storey tenement and the two (2) connecting ramps.
2. Undertake foundation investigation in accordance with Sections 7.5.1 to 7.5.5 of the NSCP.
3. Prepare as-built plan of the building in terms of structural, architectural, electrical and sanitary details.
4. Prepare and submit rehabilitation plans.

Prequalification Statement Forms will be issued to interested parties upon submission of two (2) copies of the letter of intent and company profile addressed to: The Chairman, Project Evaluation Committee (PEC) from March 21 - April 5, 2002. Pre-Q Forms, as well as other information are available at the Office of the PEC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, NHA Main Building, Diliman, Quezon City. Interested parties may contact the PEC Secretariat at telephone Nos. 926-5616 and 926-45-61 to 65 local 262 for additional information. Deadline of submission of accomplished Pre-Q Statements is on April 12, 2002.

Pre-qualified parties shall be issued Terms of Reference, location plan upon payment of non-refundable fee of P500.00 and are required to visit the building prior to preparation of their proposals. They shall be invited to attend a Pre-Bid Confere[illegible] schedule of which shall be relayed through a bid bulletin.

NHA [illegible] right to reject any or all bids, waive formally any minor defect thereon, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government without assuming any obligations for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the parties.

(Sgd.) JOSEPH PETER S. SISON
Assistant General Manager
Chairman, Project Evaluation Committee

(PDI--Mar. 20 & Apr. 3, 2002)

DBP CITES OUTSTANDING RELENDERS
Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho presents the most outstanding participating financial institution for the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) facility for the shipping industry award to Security Bank president Rafael Simpao Jr. and senior vice president Patricia May Siy during cocktails to honor the top conduit banks of the state-owned Development Bank of the Philippines. Other winners cited by DBP are Bank of the Philippine Islands, most outstanding PFI for all around performance; Citibank N.A., most outstanding PFI for loan syndication; and Metrobank, special citation under the IGLF lending program. Witnessing the awarding are BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura, DBP chair Vitaliano N. Nañagas II, and JBIC senior representative Yasushi Tanaka.

Multilateral agencies seen investing in AMCs

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE ASIAN Development Bank and the International Finance Corp., the private investment arm of the World Bank, have expressed strong interest in investing in asset management companies that banks and government financial institutions intend to establish to dispose of bad assets, Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura told reporters yesterday.

State-controlled pension funds, the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System, as well as commercial banks like the Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., Equitable PCI Bank and state-owned Land Bank of the Philippines are among those looking to dispose of billions of pesos worth of non-performing loans and acquired real estate through the establishment of AMCs or special purpose asset vehicles.

"They (ADB and IFC) are talking to the private sector, including GFIs. We've encouraged them to talk to the GFIs," Buenaventura said.

"This is good because the focus will be more developmental. We are interested in them participating to provide a balance to private funds, which are more profit-oriented," he added.

Many foreign investment banks and private investment funds are keen on acquiring large chunks of the non-performing loans and acquired assets of local financial institutions at a steep discount or equivalent to 20 to 30 centavos from the book value of the assets.

US-based investment bank Lehman Brothers and foreign fund Cerberus Capital Ltd. have each pledged to invest up to $1 billion for such purchases.

Many local financial institutions have already begun the process of negotiating with prospective investors or the holding of an auction for the assets but have delayed finalizing their asset disposal programs until the bill on special purpose asset vehicles now pending in Congress has been passed.

The bill aims to provide tax breaks and incentives for banks and other financial institutions to unload their bad assets through the AMCs.

Salcon Power to bid for Napocor assets

By Doris C. Dumlao

SHARES of Salcon Power Corp. traded heavily yesterday on their debut at the Philippine Stock Exchange as the Cebu-based power firm disclosed plans to acquire some power generation assets of state-owned National Power Corp.

Salcon Power chair Lim Chan Lok yesterday announced that the company planned to use part of the proceeds from its P565-million initial public offering to participate in the government's bidding for Napocor assets.

He added that the company was planning to revive two hydroelectric power projects on Panay island—the 29-megawatt Timbayan and 32-megawatt Villasiga power plants—which were awarded by Napocor four years ago but were shelved due to the drop in demand for electricity. He said Salcon had committed to invest close to $100 million in the two projects.

The most actively traded stock at the PSE during its inaugural trading, Salcon Power saw its share price rise by 4.44 percent to close at P1.88 from its offering price of P1.80. Some P297.15 million worth of Salcon shares changed hands, accounting for 44.43 percent of the total value turnover yesterday.

The company sold 313.9 million shares split into primary and secondary shares out of about 1.57 billion in total shares.

Asked whether Salcon Power would pursue the acquisition of Napocor assets on its own, the company chair said: "We will probably look at getting partners in bidding for the generation companies of Napocor."

For this year, Lim said the company's planned capital expenditures were minimal at about $75 million, mostly for plant repair and upgrade, but fresh funds would be readied for new investment opportunities.

Aside from generating fresh funds through the IPO, he said Salcon Power could seek new bank loans or tap the bond market.

Salcon Power is majority owned by Salcon Philippines Inc., a 60-percent subsidiary of Singapore's Salcon Ltd., along with a consortium of foreign entities and local partners led by siblings Dennis and Larry Villareal, Alfredo Henares, Yolanda Martirez and Cora Gamez.

For fiscal year ending July 2001, Salcon Power posted a net income of P861.63 million, up from P702.50 million in 2000 and P606.35 million in 1999. For 2002, net earnings are expected to slow down to P582.54 million, factoring in a cash dividend of P157 million.

The company's total assets amounted to about P3 billion while total liabilities were at P261.5 million.

UPS starts Clark operation

CLARK FIELD, Pampanga—The Atlanta-based giant package delivery company United Parcel Service (UPS) opened yesterday its intra-Asia hub operation at the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport here.

Dennis Morfe, air traffic controller here, said four wide-bodied UPS airplanes arrived and took off from the DMIA between 12:14 a.m. and 4:34 a.m. on Tuesday.

The flights included an Airbus 300 from Hong Kong; a Boeing 757 from South Korea; another Boeing 757 from Singapore, and a Boeing 767 from Sydney, Australia. The four planes took off for Hong Kong, Beijing, Taipei and Singapore.

Hidenori Aritake, managing director of the UPS Intra-Asia Hub here, told the INQUIRER that an additional Boeing 757 will join the courier firm's fleet of aircraft that will arrive and take off here daily starting April 18 when the Narita airport's upgrading in Japan is completed. He said the fifth airplane would come from Narita Airport in Japan.

Aritake said 300 workers of the UPS cargo-sorting warehouse and offices here have been trained for the actual operation since last month.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is set to inaugurate the UPS Intra-Asia hub on April 5, her 55th birthday. Last year, Ms Macapagal personally witnessed the signing of the letter of intent between UPS and Clark Development Corp. (CDC) officials for the establishment of the company's regional hub here, apart from its existing hubs in Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore.

Matthew Ong, UPS-Delbros International Express managing director, said they did not expect any problem that might jeopardize the planned operation of UPS here.

UPS originally intended to start its intra-Asia operation in September last year but had to reset it for December due to some concerns like the power supply problem at that time.

The scheduled operation last December was again postponed after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

Arturo Senseng, business development manager of UPS-Delbros, said the performance of UPS in the Asia-Pacific would improve with the operation of its hub at the DMIA.

He said that UPS was targeting more clients and expanding its market in the Asia-Pacific region.

He said UPS was trying to improve its network to compete with Federal Express and DHL in the Asia-Pacific region. UPS is investing $300 million to $500 million for its regional hub operation here. ***Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

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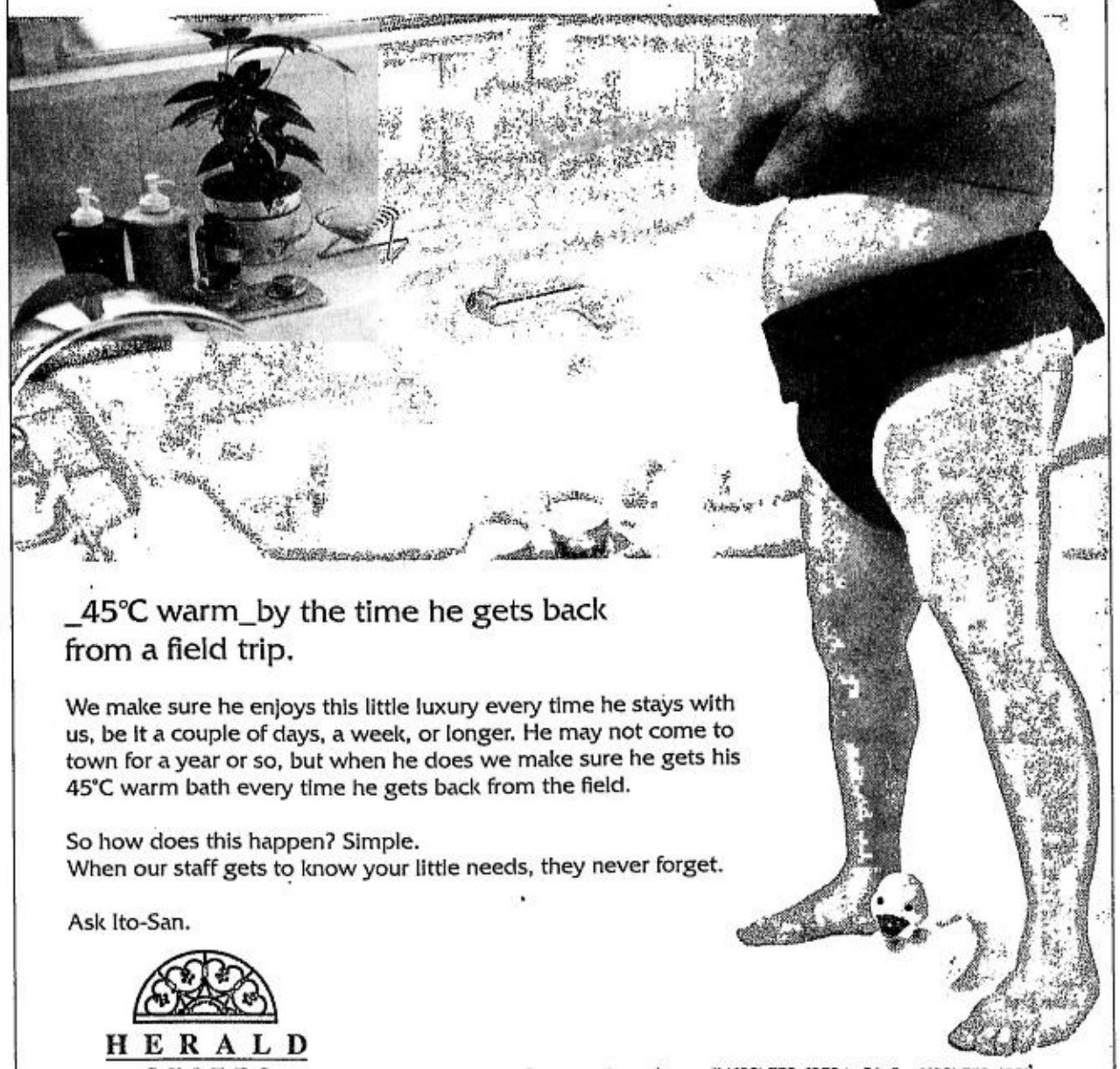

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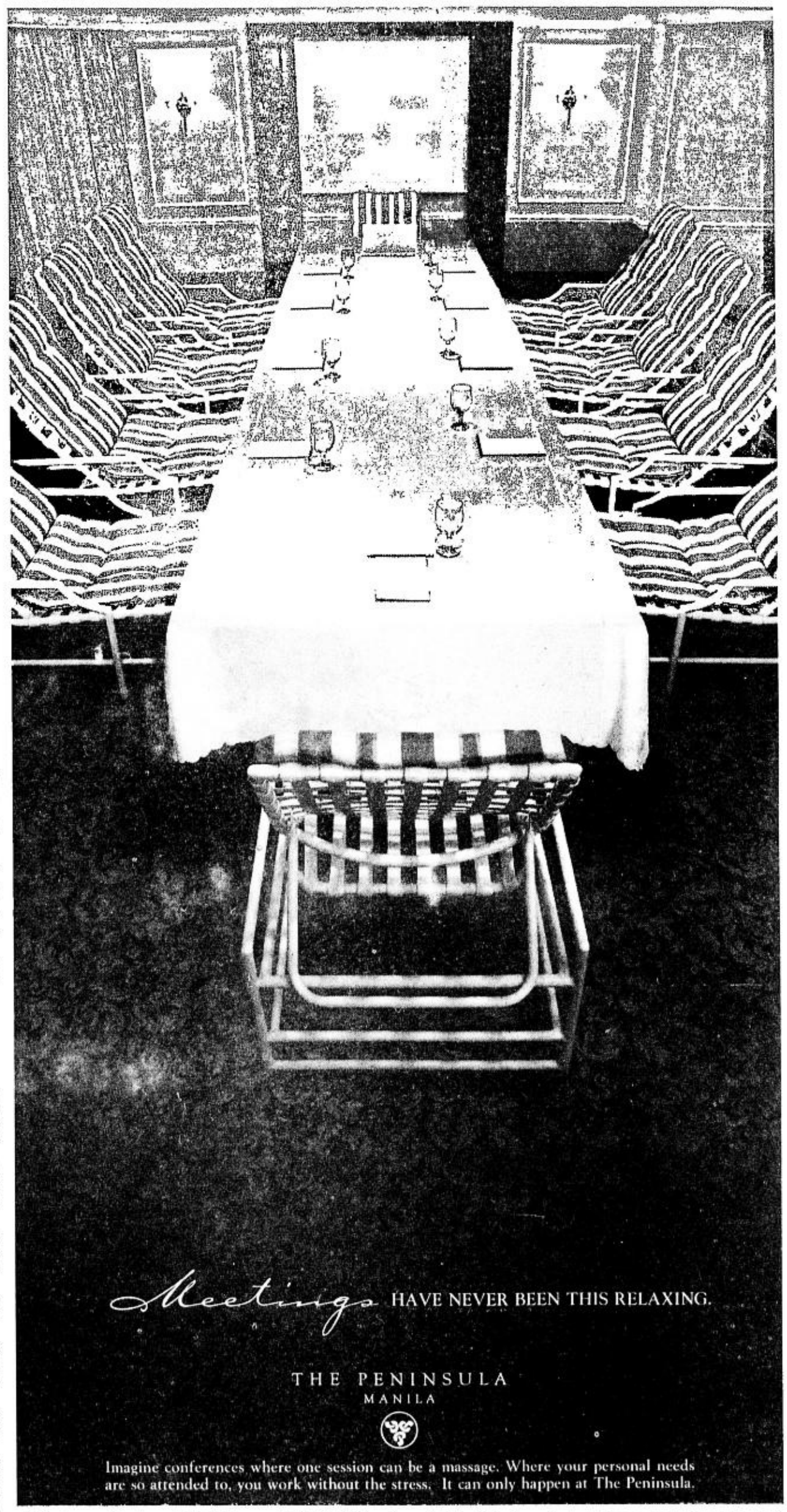

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US economic revival shows more staying power

NEC CORP. new recruits bow in unison to members of the Japan's electronics giant's board of directors during a ceremony for the newcomers at a Tokyo hotel Monday, April 1, 2002, the first day of the new fiscal year. Although NEC reported a big loss in its earnings for the last fiscal year like many other major Japanese electronics companies affected by global downturn, NEC recruited 800 employees this year, 100 people more than previous year. AP

WASHINGTON—The notion that the country's economic revival has real staying power gained believers Monday when the latest snapshot of the economy showed manufacturing growing for the second straight month and construction spending recording its largest increase in a year.

The Institute for Supply Management, formerly known as the National Association of Purchasing Management, reported that its index of business activity rose to 55.6 in March, its best reading in two years, from 54.7 percent in February.

An index above 50 signifies growth in manufacturing, while a figure below 50 shows contraction.

It marked the first time the index flashed back-to-back growth signals above the 50 mark since June-July 2000, right before the manufacturing slump began.

"There should be no doubt that manufacturing has turned around sharply," said economist Clifford Waldman of Waldman Associates. "I think we have ourselves a pretty broad economic recovery."

That's good news for the nation's beleaguered manufacturing sector, which was suffering even before the country fell into recession in March 2001.

Hardest hit by the sour economy, factories throttled back production and laid off hundreds of thousands of workers.

But recent economic reports suggest that factories are starting to boost production, particularly as companies have gotten rid of excess piles of unsold goods, and that bodes well for stronger economic growth in the coming months, economists said.

In another report, spending on construction projects grew by a bigger-than-expected 1.1 percent in February as builders took advantage of Americans' strong demand for new homes, the Commerce Department said.

Many analysts were forecasting a smaller, 0.6-percent rise.

Virtually all the strength came from increased spending on residential construction, which rose 3.5 percent, especially single-family homes.

Economists said the residential construction market should provide a nice boost to economic growth for the first quarter of this year.

Monday's reports should provide sufficient evidence to convince doubting Thomases that the rebound in both the national economy and in manufacturing is real and not an illusion, economists said.

The reports also suggest that the economy is growing strong enough so as not to slip back into a recession, a fear among some analysts.

"A factory rebound is clearly under way, and I suspect that it will be quicker and stronger than many expect," said Ken Mayland, president of ClearView Economics.

"I'm a believer of the spring theory of the economy. You compress it a little, it bounces back a little. You compress it a lot, it snaps back hard. Factories suffered their worst setback in two decades, which sets them up to come back with gusto," Mayland said.

But on Wall Street, worries about escalating violence in the Middle East weighed on stock prices. The Dow Jones industrial average closed down 41.24 points at 10,362.70.

In the construction report, spending on new single-family homes rose by 3.1 percent in February, the biggest increase since December 1993.

Despite the recession, home sales hit record highs last year. Buyers snapped up both new and existing homes, motivated not only by low mortgage rates but also by increases in home values, especially as the stock market swooned.

Even with mortgage rates creeping up, economists still believe home sales will remain solid this year, helping along the economic recovery.

However, Monday's report showed that spending on commercial projects, including industrial complexes, office buildings and hotels, declined by 3 percent in February. Spending on big government projects, including highways, dipped by 0.5 percent. The 1.1-percent increase in construction spending in February matched the rise recorded in February 2001. It marked the third straight month in a row that construction spending went up.

To rescue the economy from recession, the Federal Reserve slashed interest rates 11 times last year, pushing some interest rates down to the lowest levels seen in four decades. *AP*

Merrill ups US growth estimates

NEW YORK—Merrill Lynch, noting that its US economic growth forecast had already been above consensus expectations, has boosted its growth estimates another half percentage point to reflect growth stimulated by federal spending, tax cuts and inventory rebuilding.

And the Merrill economists said there was a risk that growth could even exceed that outlook.

Merrill boosted its gross domestic product (GDP) fourth-quarter to fourth-quarter growth forecast to 4.8 percent and its calendar year 2002 GDP growth estimate to 3.2 percent.

"The US economy is outperforming even our optimistic expectations," the Merrill economists said in their weekly economic and financial commentary.

The economists said the strong economic growth means corporate earnings should accelerate.

"We now expect S&P 500 operating earnings per share to jump 21 percent to $47.00 in 2002 versus $45.00 in our prior forecast," the Merrill economists said.

The Merrill economists said GDP probably grew at a 6-percent rate in the first quarter and that solid growth will persist after that—4-percent growth during the next couple of quarters, with a pickup toward 5 percent in the fourth quarter when the economy "should be firing on all cylinders."

Merrill said it expects the economy to grow around 4 percent next year.

The economists said more than $90 billion in added federal spending in 2002 directly boosted GDP growth by more than half a percentage point. Also, more than $70 billion of tax cuts will spur consumer and capital spending, they said. *Reuters*

IMF dilutes its role in plan to help troubled countries

WASHINGTON—The International Monetary Fund on Monday amended its proposal for developing a system to allow troubled countries to file for bankruptcy protection to give it a smaller role than creditors.

Last November the Washington-based lender made a groundbreaking proposal that if adopted would allow troubled countries like Argentina to restructure their debts in an orderly way without having to resort to a messy debt default.

But while the idea gathered wide support conceptually, there were many objections to the aspect of the plan that would have made the IMF the gatekeeper for the new system.

The new plan, unveiled in a speech at the Institute for International Economics by IMF First Deputy Managing Director Anne Krueger, would dilute the IMF's role and make creditors more responsible for working out an eventual restructuring.

Krueger told reporters on a conference call that the power in her new plan would be held by "the debtor and a super-majority of the creditors, so that they would be the ones that were handling the restructuring itself and the fund would not be involved in that process."

The No. 2 IMF official admitted that the change in approach was made because, "A lot of people reacted uneasily about having the fund too much in the driving seat" in her original plan. But despite the changes, the scheme seems unlikely to do enough to yield the support of the United States.

The United States, as the IMF's largest shareholder, has an effective veto on the lender's proposal. The Bush administration wants debt restructurings handled in a market-based fashion and addressed by the inclusion of collective action clauses in bond contracts, which would dictate the appropriate solution if problems arose.

Indeed, when asked had she done enough to win US support, Krueger conceded, "I don't think we are there yet."

"It's an ongoing discussion," she said. "We'll have an ongoing discussion and see where it goes."

Obstacles remain

Her plan advocates including collective action clauses in bond contracts, the approach favored by Treasury, but maintains such clauses do not do enough to address the myriad legal problems that could arise across different jurisdictions.

Even if Krueger's plan yielded political support, it could take years before such a plan were enacted due to the difficult legal and ratification issues that would arise.

Under the amended plan, the IMF would still make the initial call that a nation needed a debt restructuring. But instead of following through in a leadership role, the IMF would then take a back seat. Krueger said the IMF would hand the process over to a creditor-committee, which could be assembled within about 90 days to lead the debt restructuring process. *Reuters*

HP won't nominate Hewlett

NEW YORK—Hewlett-Packard Co. on Monday said it would not reappoint Walter Hewlett to its board, after he tried to derail its $19-billion plan to buy Compaq Computer Corp., effectively severing ties with one of the founding families of Silicon Valley.

Walter Hewlett, who is the son of HP cofounder Bill Hewlett, filed a lawsuit last week to block the computer and printer maker's acquisition of Compaq, alleging the company bought votes and misled a key adviser to seal the deal.

Palo Alto, California-based HP, said the board's decision not to nominate Hewlett, who has been fighting the merger for months, was based on his adversarial relationship with the company and in particular the lawsuit.

Sam Ginn, the head of HP's nominating committee, said in a statement that the company had intended to nominate Hewlett until he filed suit. He said the board was shocked by the suit.

"His recent actions have again violated basic principles of trust," Ginn said.

Walter Hewlett, who was the last member of the Hewlett or Packard families to sit on the board, said he regretted the decision. Together, the families control 18 percent of HP's stock.

"It is unfortunate that the HP board has seemingly missed what the company's stockholders have clearly recognized: that dissent is not disloyalty, that healthy boards need not agree on every issue and that while the management and board may run the company, the stockholders are the true owners of a company," he said in a statement.

Without commenting on the reason for the move, one investor said that even without Hewlett, HP's board is strong.

"I don't view it as a major factor for the company because they still have a large, well-qualified board," said Noel DeDora, managing director and senior portfolio manager at Fremont Investment Advisors, which owns HP shares and voted for the merger.

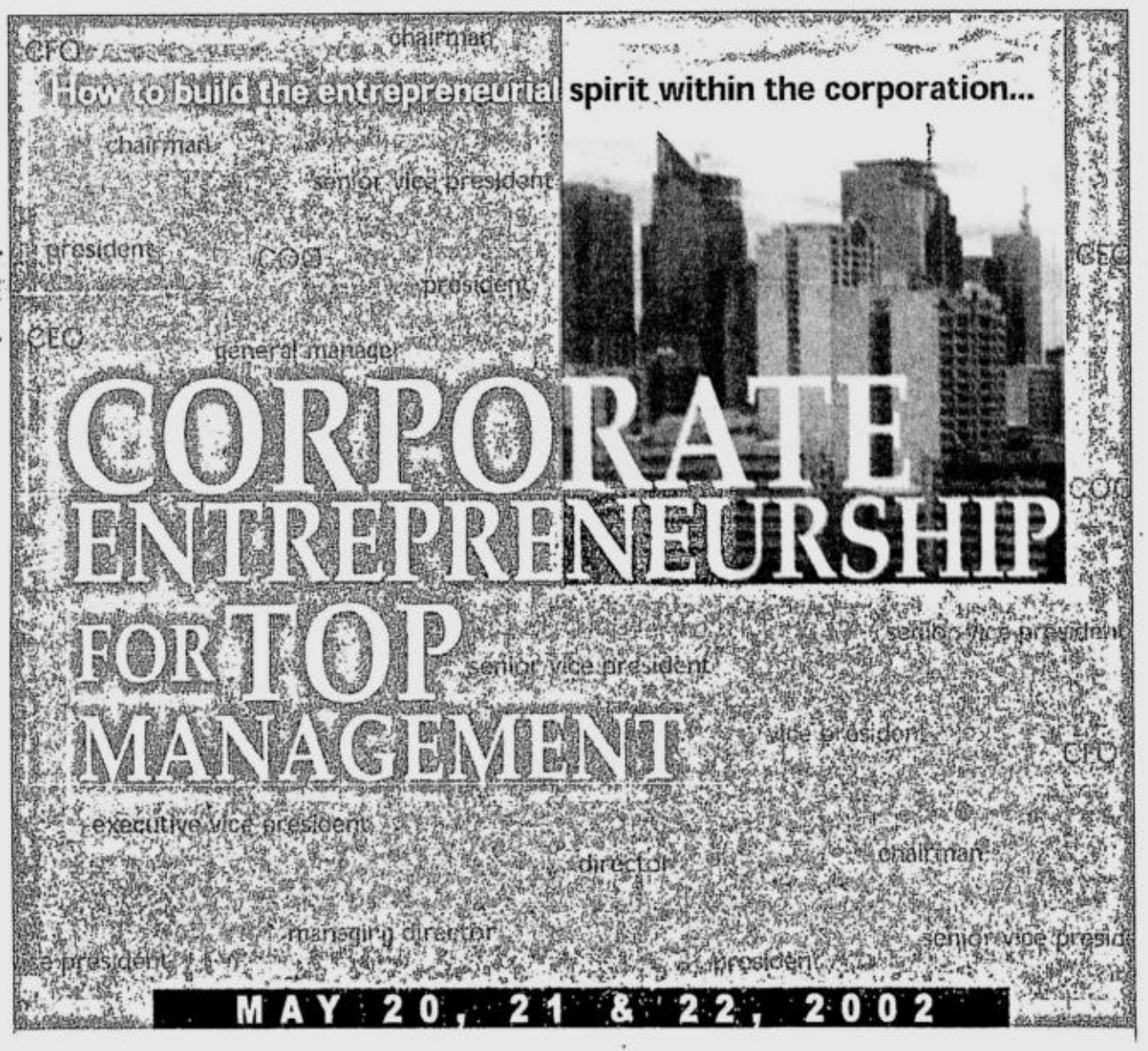
One small investor who fought loudly against the deal said the decision discounted the value of independent directors.

"In a world where investors are craving independent directors that are willing to question management, this flies in the face of that," said David Katz, chief investment officer at Matrix Asset Advisors.

Hewlett filed suit last week against HP in Delaware Chancery Court in an effort to prevent the deal, announced on Sept. 3, from going through. He alleged that HP management bought votes in the contentious HP shareholder vote last month and misled a key adviser about the deal.

HP has called the suit baseless.

The suit came after Walter Hewlett waged a four-month battle against the merger, which was strongly backed by HP chief executive Carly Fiorina. *Reuters*



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RP economy to grow 3.6% this year, says British research firm

Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE economy will grow by 3.6 percent this year and by 4 percent next year, in line with a rebound in East Asia and the United States, according to a report by London-based think tank Consensus Economics Inc.

The report, quoted by the Asian Development Bank in its quarterly monitor, gave the Philippines the third biggest upgrade after Singapore and South Korea.

The economic outlooks for Singapore and South Korea were revised upward to 3.8 percent and 4.7 percent.

Consensus Economics gathers forecasts from economic and financial institutions across 70 countries around the world.

The Philippines recorded last year a 3.4-percent growth in gross domestic product—the sum of all goods and services produced by an economy in a given period—surpassing the government's target of 3.3 percent.

The domestic economy is seen growing by 4 to 4.5 percent this year.

In its own report, the ADB said economies in East Asia were recovering from last year's sharp slowdown faster than expected, but the rebound was likely to be moderate.

The report, released on Monday, said the fallout from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States had turned out to be less disruptive than was originally feared.

The slowdown in the US economy also appeared to be ending earlier than expected, it added.

The ADB, quoting Consensus Economics, said the 10 countries in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, China and South Korea would grow at an average of 5.2 percent in 2002 and 6.7 percent next year.

Consensus Economics had put growth in these countries at 4.3 percent last year after 7.6 percent in 2000.

The ADB's own economic growth forecasts for the region in 2002 and 2003 will be published in its Asian Development Outlook next week.

"Many of the region's stock markets have trended up since the fourth quarter of last year," the report said. "Exports and domestic demand are also starting to pick up."

The report said there was likely to be a synchronized recovery across the region in 2002, much like the synchronized slowdown last year, but warned that it would not be as sharp.

"The region is headed for a faster-than-expected but moderate rebound this year," it said.

With a report from Reuters

BSP says inflation probably rose to 3.5%-3.7% in March

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday inflation probably rose slightly in March to anywhere from 3.5 to 3.7 percent from a two-year low of 3.4 percent in February.

In a news briefing, Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenvantura said an uptick was likely the result of "normal corrections."

He said the increase in world oil prices had a minimal direct impact on inflation.

The government, however, is looking at changing its assumption that world crude prices will average $20 per barrel this year.

Petroleum prices have risen above $20 per barrel following a decision by members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to cut production.

As a component of the consumer price index, oil prices make up only 3 percent.

The country's inflation rate has been on a downtrend for several months, breaking into the 3-percent level in January at 3.8 percent from 4.1 percent on the back of a stable exchange rate and food prices.

In turn, the lower inflation rate has paved the way for the 91-day Treasury bill rate, the benchmark used by banks to price their loans, to fall to historic lows.

The deceleration of inflation has also prodded the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to cut its overnight borrowing and lending rates several times, adding to the liquidity in the market.

Asean, USTR to hold meeting on free trade plan

THE PHILIPPINES and other members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations will meet with US Trade Representative Bob Zoellick for consultations on Asean's proposed free trade arrangements with China and Japan.

Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II said the Philippines wanted to know Washington's stand on Asean's plan to broaden its free trade block to include two of the biggest economies in the world.

Roxas will go to Bangkok, Thaila,nd on April 4 and 5 for the Asean Economic Ministers Meeting and USTR consultation.

The Asean Free Trade Area, where duties on majority of goods traded within the region will fall to 5 percent and below, will commence next year.

Asean is currently studying a proposal to include either China or Japan or both after 10 years.

The Philippines has taken a cautious stance on the Asean-China trading block on concerns that Chinese goods may easily swamp the country, while it favors a broader alliance with Japan whose industrial goods complement better Asean's mostly agricultural products.

Aside from Asean trade agreements, Roxas said Asean members would also seek enlightenment on the US decision to impose tariffs on steel imports to protect American steel makers.

On Philippine concerns, Roxas said he would follow up on the Philippines request to grant zero duty on Philippine canned tuna exports to the United States as a reward for the government's all-out support in President Bush global war on terrorism. ***Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.***

DOTC end-2001 revenue up 10% on MRT surge

THE DEPARTMENT of Transportation and Communications posted end-2001 revenues of P26.54 billion, surpassing its revenue target of P24.21 billion by almost 10 percent.

This was a 15-percent growth from 2000's P23.07-billion revenue, attributed primarily to the inclusion of the Edsa Metro Rail Transit 3's income of almost P1.3 billion.

The railway system in 2000 posted a mere P543 million because of the high fare it initially charged commuters. The fare slash boosted Edsa MRT 3's revenues by more than 139 percent.

"The department was able to surpass its target revenue due to strengthened and enhanced collective efforts of all agencies in implementing stricter monitoring and enforcement of transportation and communication policies, in pursuance of the call of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's administration to double its efforts in generating more revenues for the country," Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez said in a statement yesterday. ***Abigail L. Ho***

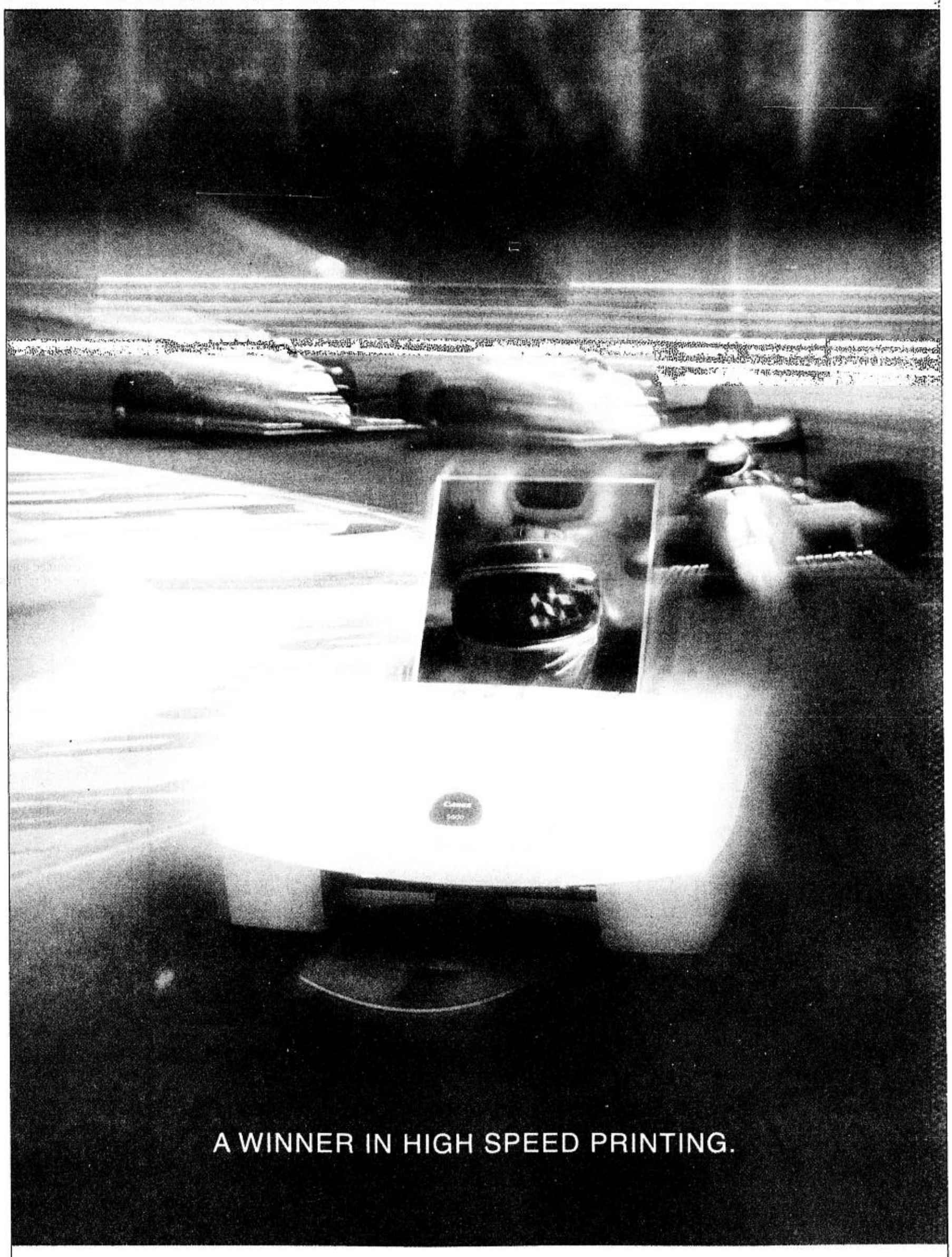
₱5B in Landbank funds available for re-lending

LAND Bank of the Philippines has announced that it has some P5 billion that it can re-lend to micro-enterprises over the next three years.

The re-lending facility is part of the World Bank's $150-million official development assistance to the Philippines dubbed as the "Rural Finance Project III," according to Landbank.

Landbank first vice president Nenita Veran said borrowers could tap the fund through rural banks, Landbank's lending centers and the People's Credit and Finance Corp.

The money may be used for financing start-ups and expansions, and credit restructuring for feasible projects that are encountering some financing problems, Veran said.



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Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
FIRST JUDICIAL REGION
Branch 60
Baguio City

BERNARDO AGANA, Plaintiff,
- versus -
ERWIN MENDOZA, GEORGE ESTILLORE and OSCAR M. HAMADA (in his official capacity as the Regional Executive Director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources), Defendants.
x----------x

CIVIL CASE NO. 4323-R
For
RECOVERY OF OWNERSHIP AND POSSESSION, CERTIORARI, PROHIBITION AND DAMAGES

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

WHEREAS, on March 12, 1999, plaintiff through counsel filed a verified complaint, the same was amended on April 17, 2001, the Amended Complaint is quoted in toto, as follows:

"PLAINTIFF, through undersigned counsel and unto this Honorable Court, most respectfully states that:

1. Plaintiff is a Filipino, of legal age, married and a resident of Navy Base, Baguio City. WHEREAS, defendant ERWIN MENDOZA is a naturalized American Citizen, of legal age, married and with address at No. 57 Samar Avenue, Metro Manila, where he may be served with Summons and other court processes. The other defendant, GEORGE ESTILLORE, who is the caretaker of Erwin Mendoza, is a Filipino, of legal age, married and a resident of Navy Base, Baguio City, where he may be served with summons and other court processes;

2. Public defendant, HON. OSCAR M. HAMADA is the Regional Executive Director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Cordillera Administrative Region, Baguio City. He is a Filipino, of legal age, married and may be served with summons and other court processes at the Office of the Regional Executive Director, DENR, Diego Silang Street, Baguio City. Honorable Oscar M. Hamada is being sued herein in his official capacity as the Regional Director;

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

3. Sometimes in the early part of 1969, an area of more or less 4 hectares of the land situated at Residence Section "D", Polo Field, Baguio City, was allocated and distributed by the Bureau of Lands to the members of the Baguio Homeseekers Residence Association. Among the members to whom a portion of the said lot was designated is the herein plaintiff;

4. The portion of the lot assigned to the herein Plaintiff was designated as Lot No. 24. Plaintiff, since then, entered into the actual occupation and possession of the said property, introducing improvements thereon;

5. Upon having received his allocated parcel of land, plaintiff, on November 11, 1969, filed an application for a Miscellaneous Sales Patent over his area. Attached herewith, marked as ANNEX "A" and made part hereof is a Plaintiff's MSA over the area allocated to him;

6. In addition to filing his MSA, the Plaintiff likewise declared the land for taxation purposes under his name;

7. Since plaintiff was in the army and was assigned in Mindanao, he was not able to follow up his application. Nevertheless, he never abandoned his interest in his lot and, whenever he had the opportunity, he would take the necessary steps to perfect his ownership over the same;

8. On September 1992, during his infrequent follow up of his papers in Luzon, plaintiff found out that the lot which was allocated to him was being claimed by a certain person by the name of ERWIN MENDOZA. Plaintiff found this out merely from the records of the Bureau of Lands;

9. On April 1993, Plaintiff acquired copies of his papers, pertinent to his lot application at Polo Field, Baguio City from the DENR Office No. 1-2, Bureau of Lands, Baguio City, and from thence, he found out for the first time that an order has been issued by the Officer-In-Charge of the said office, to the effect that Plaintiff's MSA was rejected and the application of Defendant ERWIN MENDOZA was given due course for the reason that Plaintiff allegedly relinquished and waived his rights over the said parcel of land in favor of Defendant ERWIN MENDOZA, through an affidavit of Assignment of Rights and Improvements dated February 9, 1976. Attached herewith, marked as ANNEX "B" and "C", respectively, are copies of the Order and the fictitious Affidavit;

10. Needless to say, the Affidavit allegedly executed by the herein Plaintiff waiving his rights in favor of ERWIN MENDOZA is a falsity. The signature of Plaintiff as appearing thereon is an absolute forgery. Coupled with this, at the time of the execution of the said Affidavit, Plaintiff was then in Mindanao discharging his tour of duty. It is then highly improbably, if not outright impossible for Plaintiff to have executed the said affidavit;

11. Furthermore, Plaintiff has never, not even once in his lifetime ever met a person by the name ERWIN MENDOZA;

12. And yet, despite all the improbabilities and anomalies existent in the MSA of ERWIN MENDOZA and the fictitious Affidavit of Waiver, Defendant ERWIN MENDOZA successfully deprived Plaintiff of his possession and ownership over the land which was awarded to him. In this regard, ERWIN MENDOZA, through his co-defendant and caretaker, has now occupied the premises in dispute;

13. And so, due to the anomalies existent in the rejection of Plaintiff's MSA and the acceptance of Defendant ERWIN MENDOZA's MSA Plaintiff, on January 18, 1994, plaintiff filed and Administrative Protest before the DENR, questioning the application of Defendant ERWIN MENDOZA. Attached herewith, marked as ANNEX "D" and made part hereof is a copy of Plaintiff's Administrative Protest;

14. The Administrative Complaint filed by the Plaintiff remained unacted upon for a period of five (5) years due to absence of ERWIN MENDOZA. If ever ERWIN MENDOZA appeared, it was always through her mother. Serious doubts even exist if there is really a person by the name of ERWIN MENDOZA;

15. At any rate, during the scheduled hearing for the administrative case, the only issue was whether the signature as appearing in the Affidavit was falsified. It might prove illuminating to stress that during the hearings Plaintiff was more than willing to make the necessary comparison of his signature with the signature appearing in the Affidavit. Yet, the necessary comparison could not be had because of the refusal of ERWIN MENDOZA to surrender the original of the Affidavit for examination;

16. Inspite of the refusal of ERWIN MENDOZA to surrender the original for proper examination of the signature, the public Defendant Hamada, proceed to resolve the case with grave abuse of discretion, amounting to lack of jurisdiction.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

17. During the hearings of the Administrative Protest filed by Plaintiff against ERWIN MENDOZA, there was never an instance that public defendant OSCAR M. HAMADA, ever presided over the hearing. Not having presided over the hearings, it is then grave abuse of discretion on his part to have rendered an order without even having had the chance to consider the evidences, observe the demeanor of the witnesses and appreciate the case;

18. Perforce to say then, not having had any hand in the hearing of the administrative case, it is totally contrary to due process and fair play that he would decide the same. But he did. In fact, he rendered a hasty decision in favor of ERWIN MENDOZA;

19. But even granting without admitting that HON. OSCAR M. HAMADA was well within his rights to decide the case, his decision is contrary to precepts of evidence. As stated earlier, the original of the questioned Affidavit is in the possession of ERWIN MENDOZA. Even during the hearings, ERWIN MENDOZA, through her mother, always showed the original. When it was requested that the same be submitted for verification by the NBI, the mother of ERWIN MENDOZA refused. Despite this, the public defendant OSCAR M. HAMADA decreed that "despite the long period of time afforded him, he failed." This condition smacks the elements of impartiality in a decision and neglects to observe the well enshrined presumption that evidence willfully suppressed would be adverse if presented;

20. There is no appeal from such order nor any plain, speedy and adequate remedy in the course of law;

21. A certified true copy of the order herein sought to be reviewed is hereto attached as ANNEX "E";

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

22. The Order of Respondent Oscar M. Hamada provides and allows the TSA of ERWIN MENDOZA to be given further due course. But to give due course to the TSA of Erwin Mendoza, who, not even once appeared before the DENR, will be travesty of justice;

23. For one, ERWIN MENDOZA is not a Filipino. Furthermore, to process the application of ERWIN MENDOZA will deprive herein Plaintiff of his property without due process of law;

24. The proceedings, therefore, granting due course to the TSA of ERWIN MENDOZA would be an act exercised without jurisdiction;

25. There is no appeal, nor any other plain, speedy and adequate remedy in the ordinary course of law;

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

26. The surreptitious and fraudulent manner by which ERWIN MENDOZA transferred the property in his own name caused serious anxiety, moral shock, anger, sleepless nights on the part of the Plaintiff which feelings, if quantified in terms of money, would amount to FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P50,000.00);

27. To serve as an example to others not to surreptitiously and fraudulently transfer properties in their names, the Defendant ERWIN MENDOZA should be assessed exemplary damages in the amount of TWENTY THOUSAND PESOS (P20,000.00);

28. In order to protect and enforce his rights and interest, Plaintiff had to engage the services of a private counsel at a stipulated fee in the amount of TEN THOUSAND PESOS (P10,000.00) plus an appearance fee of counsel in the amount of FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P500.00) per appearance in court;

WHEREFORE, premises considered, it is most respectfully prayed that judgement be rendered as follows:

1. That for all legal intents and purposes, the Plaintiff be declared as the rightful owner and possessor of that parcel of land covered by MSA No. 1-2, 436, situated along Polo Field, Navy Base, Baguio City;
2. Ordering the Defendants ERWIN MENDOZA, GEORGE ESTILLORE and all persons claiming under his name, to vacate the premises and turn over the peaceful possession over the above mentioned parcel of land;
3. Order the proceedings herein complained of to be forwith certified up for review and after due hearing, let judgement be rendered annulling or modifying the order of Regional Executive Director Oscar M. Hamada, as the law requires;
4. Ordering Respondent Oscar M. Hamada from further proceeding with the execution of the order on the processing of the TSA of ERWIN MENDOZA and that a writ of prohibition be issued to that effect;
5. Ordering private Defendant ERWIN MENDOZA to pay the following:
   a. FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P50,000.00) as and by way of moral damages;
   b. TWENTY THOUSAND PESOS (P20,000.00) as and by way of exemplary damages;
   c. TEN THOUSAND PESOS (P10,000.00) as and by way of attorney's fees plus an amount equivalent to FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P500.00) per counsel's appearance in court;
6. Plaintiff prays for such further reliefs just and equitable under the premises;

Baguio City, Philippines, February 22, 2001."

WHEREAS, Summons together with a copy of the Complaint and its annexes was issued for service to defendant ERWIN MENDOZA but the Sheriff's Return showed that the said process was UNSERVED on the grounds that there is no number as that of the given address and people residing at the said vicinity don't know the person of defendant ERWIN MENDOZA.

WHEREAS, on June 28, 2000, plaintiff through counsel, filed a Motion for Leave of Court to Serve Summons by Publication, said motion was granted by the Court in its Order dated July 6, 2000.

NOW, THEREFORE, you defendant ERWIN MENDOZA with last known address at No. 57 Samar Avenue, Metro Manila is hereby summoned through this medium of publication, you are therefore required to file with the Office of the Clerk of Court, Regional Trial Court, Branch 60, Baguio City your responsive pleading and/or answer to the above-quoted Amended Complaint within sixty (60) days from the date of last publication, serving at the same time a copy of your responsive pleading and/or answer upon plaintiff's counsel, Atty. Guillermo R. Bandonill, Jr. at Rm. 307 Laperal Building, Session Road, Baguio City and your failure to do so within the period herein prescribed will enable the plaintiff to take judgement against you and demand from the Honorable Court reliefs and remedies prayed for in the Amended Complaint.

Let this Summons be published at the expense of the plaintiff in the Philippine Daily Inquirer a newspaper of general circulation in Metro Manila and in Baguio City, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks, the first publication shall not be later than April 7, 2002. Furthermore, let copy of this Summons and copy of the Amended Complaint and its Annexes be deposited with the Baguio City Post Office, postage pre-paid by registered mail with return card to the last known address of defendant ERWIN MENDOZA.

WITNESS THE HONORABLE EDILBERTO T. CLARAVALL, Presiding Judge of this Court, this 25th day of March 2002.

(Sgd.) MONA LISA T. TABORA
Clerk of Court V

(PDI -- Apr. 3, 10 & 15, 2002)

AUCTIONS

RESTAURANT EQUIPMENT; MARINE SPARES; MACHINE TOOLS; OFFICE EQUIPMENT; REO TRUCK SPARES; MISC. & SCRAPS

IN OVER 600 LOTS INCLUDING:

MACHINE TOOLS & EQUIPMENT - AMIE 200 Tire Balancer; GREAT Captain Automatic Saw, Cut Off Saw; Bar Cutter Machines; Pedestal Drills; MITSUBISHI G6P-2.07 Petrol Driven Grass Cutters; HOWA Vibratory Compactors; Tamping Rammer; WAGNER Gold 8 Compressor; Unused BOSH Pistol Drill/Angle Grinder Sets; SATO 2-Ton Hydraulic Floor Jack Unused; MAKITA Reversible Electric Screw Drivers; Unused HSS Milling Cutters; Arbors; Lathe Chucks; HONDA EM3000 Portable Genset; WILD Welding Instruments, etc.
UNUSED MARINE SPARES - Electronic Communication Spares; Electrical Spares; Induction Motors; Starter Motors; Pump Brass Impellers; Butterfly/Globe Valves Repair Kits; Butterfly Valves; PETER LISTERS Diesel Engine, etc.
REO TRUCK SPARES - REO Truck Tandem & Differentials; Hubs; Fuel Hoses; Reels; Brackets, Bearing Cups & Oil Seals.
RESTAURANT EQUIPMENT - 2-Door Stainless Steel Chiller; MANITOWOK Ice Making Machine; SOFTECH TAYLOR Ice Cream Maker; Stainless Steel Preparation Tables; Stainless Steel PITCO Deep Fat Fryers; SURE CHEF Rice Steamer; Dough Mixers; Stainless Steel Pails; Fastfood Restaurant Furniture, etc.
OFFICE FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT - Executive/Clerical Chairs; Personal Computers; Printers; Single/Double Office Tables; Unused Ball Pens; Portable Manual Typewriters; Steel Plan Cabinets; Steel Filing Cabinets, etc.
MISC. & SCRAPS - BERKER 2000 Kg Industrial Floor Scale; BROTHER, SINGER, STAGER Industrial Sewing Machines; OASIS D75 & D165 Frost Free De-Humidifiers; (3) Glue Tanks; GORIN KERR Metal Detectors;; CARRIER Split Type Aircons; Refrigerators; Ceramic Hand Basins; Toilet Bowls; Stainless Steel Medical Examination Table; Wheel Chair; Asstd. Cylinders; Shafting; Fire Hoses; Hydraulic Hoses; Safety Harness Equipment; Lifting Straps; EBARA Pumps; Suction Blowers; Induction Motors; Hydraulic Pumps; Industrial Exhaust Fans; Concrete Mixer; Pallet Jack; Electric Winch; Glass Doors; Unused Steel/Mag Wheel Rims; Radiators; Transmissions; Fuel Tanks; Propeller Shafts; Filters; Unused Tires; Wooden Pallets; Asstd. Electrical; Floor Carpets; Asstd. Electrical/ Electronic Scraps, etc.

AT: HENRY BUTCHER AUCTION CENTRE
BLDG 7 VRCC ROAD, VETERANS CENTRE, TAGUIG, M.M
ON: THURSDAY 4TH APRIL 2002- 10:30AM PROMPT
ON VIEW: WEDNESDAY 3RD APRIL 2002,
9:00AM - 5:00PM & MORNING OF SALE DAY
REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT: Php20,000.00 (Upon Registration)

MACHINE TOOLS & EQUIPMENT; LOOSE TOOLS & EQUIPMENT; FORKLIFT; OFFICE FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT; MISCELLANEOUS & SCRAP

IN OVER 100 LOTS INCLUDING:

MACHINE TOOLS & EQUIPMENT - TAKISAWA 300 x 1500 Gap Bed Lathe; NIGATA 350 x 3700 Gap Bed Lathe; HMT 300 x 3000 Gap Bed Lathe; GADSUDENKI 950 x 1075 Facing Lathe; TAKISAWA 175 x 1100 Gap Bed Lathe; REED PRENTICE Vertical Mill; HMT Turret Mill; HERBERT Jig Borer; DAINCHI Lathe/Mill/Shaper; CHEMNITZ Horizontal Borer; KASIFUJI Gear Hobber; JONES & SHIPMAN Tool & Cutter Grinder; CHURCHILL Cylindrical Grinder; HITACHI Large Cap. Air Compressor; MILLER 201 Electric Arc Welder, etc.
LOOSE TOOLS & EQUIPMENT - HSS Cutting Tools; Pipe Wrenches; O/E Wrenches; Electric/Pneumatic Power Tools; Allen Keys; Socket Wrenches; Hammers; Bench Vices, etc.
FORKLIFT - TCM 3.5 Ton Capacity Single Boom Forklift
OFFICE FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT - Steel Filing Cabinets; Wooden Table; Cabinets; Office Swivel Chairs; Computer Table; CONDURA Window Type Airconditioners; Venetian Blinds; TOSHIBA Photocopying Machine; CPU's; Monitors; Printers; Manual Typewriters; Telephone Handsets; Voltage Regulators; Printer Toners; Projector Screen; White Boards; Shell Racks; Wooden Racks, etc.
MISCELLANEOUS - Fire Extinguishers; Acetylene & Oxygen Tanks; Pressure Washers; Electrical Wires; Rollers; Convenience Outlets; Tile Grouts; Adhesives; Paints; Asstd. Chemicals; Asstd. Metal Scraps, etc.

AT: SEACOM WAREHOUSE
SANVICTORES COMPOUND, DR. A. SANTOS AVENUE, SUCAT, PARANAQUE
ON: FRIDAY 5TH APRIL 2002- 2:30PM PROMPT
ON VIEW: FRIDAY 5TH APRIL 2002 - 9:00AM - 2:00PM
REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT: Php20,000.00 (Upon Registration)

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Republic of the Philippines
Board of Investments
Philippine Retirement Authority
29/F Citibank Tower 874, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

The Philippine Retirement Authority (PRA) invites interested firms to apply for prequalification and if found eligible, to bid for separate services, as follows:

1. Conduct of Financial and Performance Audit of PRA from 1987 to 2001: (PRA-02-01)
2. Development of a PRA Five (5) Years Master Marketing Plan: (PRA-02-01)

This invitation is open to Marketing Firms or Auditing Firms which have proven track records for the past three (3) years in the delivery of such services. Marketing firms, specifically, should have such experience in the development of marketing plans of travel, visa or related service agencies.

Pre-qualification forms may be secured from the Pre-qualifications, Evaluation and Awards Committee (PEAC) starting **Monday, April 15, 2002,** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00. These forms, including eligibility documents, shall be submitted to the PEAC not later than 5:00 p.m. on **Friday, April 19, 2002.**

To clarify issues, pre-bidding conference shall be held at the above address from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on **Tuesdays, April 23, 2002** and on **April 30, 2002** for PRA-02-01 and PRA 02-02, respectively.

(Sgd.) **ERLINA P. LOZADA**
Chairman, Pre-Qualifications, Evaluation & Awards Committee

(PDI--Mar. 27 & April 3, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION
Philippine Coast Guard - Project Management Office
2nd flr. S&L Bldg., 1500 Blvd. cor. R. Salas St., Ermita, Mla.
Tel. No. 5258843 Fax No. 5258843 loc 122

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

CONSTRUCTION OF FOUNDATIONS; ERECTION OF TOWERS; INSTALLATION OF EQUIPMENT; INCLUDING LIGHTNING PROTECTION SYSTEMS; AND; COMMISSIONING OF TWENTY FIVE (25) LIGHTHOUSES (THIRD BATCH) IN VARIOUS SITES COVERED BY MARITIME SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, PHASE III (MSIP III)

The Department of Transportation and Communications, Philippine Coast Guard - Project Management Office (DOTC PCG-PMO) through the MSIP III - Bid and Award Committee (MSIP III - BAC) is inviting General Contractors for the aforementioned Project.

APPROVED BUDGET : PHP 20.226 MILLION
SOURCE OF FUNDING : LOCAL COUNTERPART FUNDS (GOP)

The scope of works covers civil, tower erection, electrical installation and other miscellaneous works to complete the Project. Prospective bidders should have valid license and classification issued by the Philippine Contractor Accreditation Board (PCAB), with the following particulars:

Category and Classification	IAC Registration
Category "A" Classification: General Engineering	Range: At least Medium "B" Kind of Project: Ports, Harbor & Offshore Engineering

Pre-qualification Documents shall be available for issuance to interested bidders for free from **02-10 April 2002** at address given above.

However, the Bid Documents, Plans and Drawings will only be issued to eligible bidders upon the payment of a non-refundable fee of Eight Thousand Pesos (PHP 8,000.00) at the Cashier's Office, PCG-PMO.

The deadline for the submission of duly accomplished Pre-qualification Statements shall be on **12 April 2002**, 10:00 AM at PCG-PMO.

PRE-BID CONFERENCE : **06 May 2002**
SUBMISSION/OPENING OF BID PROPOSAL : **27 May 2002**

The MSIP-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reasons, to waive any formality or technicality, and to award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **WILFREDO M. TRINIDAD**
Undersecretary and Chairman, MSIP III BAC

(PDI--April 1, 3 & 7, 2002)

PNOC
The Energy Company
PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY
1st Floor, Bldg. 6, Energy Center, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila, Philippines
Tel. 840-1442 Fax No. (632) 840-1441

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY PRIVATIZATION OF PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines, through the Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC), has authorized the privatization of PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC-EC), a company engaged in the exploration, development, and utilization of energy resources.

PNOC is now inviting prospective Financial Advisors to advise, guide and assist in the design, planning, preparation and implementation of the program for the privatization of PNOC-EC.

Prospective financial advisors who meet all of the following criteria may secure application forms for pre-qualification:

- has extensive global and Asian experience as financial advisor to governments on privatizations;
- has knowledge and experience in Asian and Philippine petroleum exploration and production sector;
- has extensive experience in lead-managing public equity offerings and arranging private equity sales, both globally and in Asia;
- If a foreign firm, with office in the Philippines or within Asia and willing to deploy a dedicated team of petroleum/energy experts in the country;
- No conflict of interest related to being the privatization adviser to PSALM

Qualified parties may secure pre-qualification forms starting on **April 5, 2002** during regular office hours from PNOC-EC Privatization Committee Secretariat at the 1st Floor, Building 6 Energy Center Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila. Deadline for submission of accomplished forms to the same office will be on **April 22, 2002** at 12:00 noon.

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Celia R. Tagaro (PNOC-EC Privatization Committee Secretariat) at No. 840-1442 and fax no. 840-1441.

(Sgd.) **DIR. NELSON B. BAYOT, SR.**
Chairman, PNOC-EC Privatization Committee

(PDI - April 3, 2002)

National Power Corporation

RE-INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID AD NO. PD 2000-09

Opening of Date: April 10, 2002 - 10:00 AM
E-Bidding Date: April 12, 2002 - 9:00 AM

PB020211-PDEA7125 SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF FUEL (UNLEADED GASOLINE & DIESEL) Conforms with the quality standards prescribe under RA #8749 CLEAN AIR ACT (To be purchased thru Open-Ended Purchase Order for a period of nine months starting April, 2002)

PB020318-PDEB7268 ENGINE, 4D56, Brand New, Includes Starter/Alternator Assembly, Injection Pump, etc.)

Interested parties are invited to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids on the above to be opened publicly at the Sampaguita Room, Ground Floor, Building 2, NPC-OBC, Quezon Avenue corner Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Eligibility forms and bidding documents are available on **April 3, 2002** upon payment of P50.00 which is non-refundable.

Issuance of eligibility forms and bidding documents, mornings only, 8:30 to 11:30 AM. For inquiries, please call no. 921-2574.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
NPC-OBC (Head Office)
Diliman, Quezon City

(PDI -- Apr. 3, 2002)

INQUIRER
RiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Goodbye

In the Middle Ages, English speakers bid farewell by saying "God be with ye," a characteristically pious comment similar to the French *adieu* and the Spanish *adios*, both literally meaning "to God." However, the English form lost its religiosity, and as early as Shakespeare's time was coming out as "God bye." And by early 19th century, it was further distorted to our present-day 'Goodbye.' What about the phrase 'So long?' Experts link it to the Hebrew *shalom* and the Arabic *salaam* -- 'Peace' -- but the most plausible origin is the German *solange*, or 'until that time (that we meet again).'

For the Record. Filipinos, like Americans, tend to wave goodbye with the hand up, palm out, wrist stiff, and with a back-and-forth motion with the whole forearm and hand. However, in much of Europe that gesture does not mean 'goodbye' -- it signifies 'no.' The customary European way to wave 'goodbye' or 'hello' is with the arm up and extended out, with the palm down, and just the hand bobbing up and down at the wrist. In direct contrast, Italians and Greeks will often wave goodbye with the arm extended, palm up, curling all the fingers back and forth toward themselves. Most of us interpret this gesture as meaning 'come here.'

Classified Odd. In Toronto, Canada, Franco Brun choked to death on a pocket Bible. The medical examiner speculated that the 22-year-old man had tried to swallow the 874-page Bible to purge himself of the Devil.

WORD WATCH

Valediction (val'e dik shun) : a farewell statement or speech.

PDI -- April 3, 2002

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"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want"
Psalm 23:1

Our dear NANAY,

MARIA SAN PEDRO SANTOS
"MARY"

has peacefully joined our Creator
on the 2nd day of April 2002
at the age of 72.

She is survived by her loving husband **"Tatay Malang"**; her children **Steve & Liza, Simon & Glo, Sarah & Jimmy,** and **Soler & Mona**; her grandchildren **Sharon, Shirley, Sarji, Sheryll, Selene, Badge, Ann, Marc, Luis, Ina, Michael** and **Isabel**; and all her relatives and friends.

Her body lies in state at the Faith Chapel of the Arlington Memorial Chapels (G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City).

Interment will be on Friday, April 5, 2002 at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City after an 8:00 AM Memorial Service at Arlington.

The University of Santo Tomas
announces with deep sorrow
the demise of

DR. MARIANO PANGAN

Dean, College of Science (1968-1982)
Dean, Faculty of Engineering (1982-1984)
Associate Director, Research Center
for Natural Sciences (1985-1988)
Assistant to the Rector for
Academic Affairs (1986-1990)

The body lies in state at San Martin Mortuary, Santo Domingo Church, Quezon City.

His remains will be brought to the UST Chapel on Thursday, 4 April 2002 at 7:30 a.m. and a Requiem Mass celebrated at 8:00 a.m. After the Mass, interment shall take place at the Holy Cross Memorial Park in Novaliches.

Your presence during the Mass and prayers for the repose of his soul will be highly appreciated.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6

In Loving Memory
First Death Anniversary

ROSALINDA MAGDALUYO ASUNCION

(April 11, 1951 - April 3, 2001)

Holy Masses for her eternal peace and happiness at the following churches today, April 3, 2002.

- Don Bosco Parish Church, Makati City 6:30 PM
- Our Lady of Lourdes, Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City 6:00 PM
- Bonaventure Church, Clayton CA. 9:00 AM

We, the members of Rosalinda Magdaluyo Asuncion's family request all her loved ones, relatives, friends and pious readers to join us in prayers for her.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
Matthew 10:39

"For time will never dim the love we share."
You Promised Me, I Promised You
Corazon Hinlo Vivo, October 24, 1992

In Loving Memory
On the Sixth Death Anniversary of

HON. MARTINIANO P. VIVO

Former Commissioner, Bureau of Immigration
Former Partner, Tañada, Vivo & Tan Law Offices
Philippine Legion of Honor Awardee
Member, Order of the Knights of Rizal
Member, Upsilon Sigma Phi
Member, College Editors' Guild

For his memory, Holy Masses will be offered on Thursday, April 4, 2002 at the following Churches:

St. Joseph Convent of Perpetual Adoration (Pink Sisters) ..... 6:00 a.m.
St. Raphael Archangel Parish, Caluca, Batangas ..... 4:00 p.m.
Sacred Heart Parish, Kamuning, Quezon City ..... 6:00 p.m.
Mount Carmel Shrine, Doña Juana Rodriguez Avenue, Quezon City ... 6:00 p.m.
Christ the King Seminary, E. Rodriguez, Quezon City ..... 6:00 p.m.
Immaculate Conception Parish, Lantana, Quezon City ..... 6:00 p.m.
Santo Domingo Church, Quezon City ..... 6:00 p.m.

His loving wife **Corazon**; daughter **Ining** and husband **Chito Guevara**; grandchildren **Martin, Bernard, Christine** and **Angeline**; sister **Francisca**; and brother **Agapito**; and relatives request the pious readers, especially those whose lives he had touched, to pray for his eternal rest.

DONATA DINGLASAN PANGILINAN AMA

Born: December 31, 1919

Peacefully joined her Creator on April 1, 2002

Her bereaved family: husband **Fernando Manzo Ama** (†); daughters and sons-in-law **Merle & Gerry, Lilian & Rene, Mildred & Ric, Arlene & Ferddie, Menchie, May & Danny, Beth**; grandchildren **Gert, Gege, Giselle, Mark, April, Karen, JR, Anna, Camille, JJ & Mari, Jef, Jaja, Justine, Jarius, Pochi**; and great grandchild **Jomat**; brother **Florencio**; and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Filinvest East Chapel, Marcos Highway, Antipolo City.

Interment will be on Saturday, April 6, 2002 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 9:00 AM Mass.

24th Death Anniversary
of the
LATE

ESPERANZA LIMJAP Vda. de OSMEÑA

(1896-1978)

Masses will be offered at the following churches on 4 April 2002:

St. John Bosco Parish Church, ... 6:00 a.m.
Pasay Road, Makati City
Santuario de San Antonio Parish, ... 7:30 a.m.
Forbes Park, Makati City
Malate Catholic Church, ... 6:00 p.m.
Malate, Manila
St. Andrew the Apostle Parish Church, ... 6:30 p.m.
Bel-Air Village, Makati City
St. James the Apostle Parish, ... 6:00 a.m.
Plaridel, Bulacan
Basilica Minore of the Immaculate ..... 6:00 a.m.
Concepcion Cathedral, Malolos
Parokya Ni San Isidro Labrador, Pulilan ..... 6:00 a.m.
Redemptorist Church, Cebu City ..... 6:00 a.m.
Cebu Metropolitan Cathedral, Cebu City ..... 6:30 a.m.
Basilica del Sto. Niño, ... 8:00 a.m.
Magallanes Street, Cebu City
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, ... 5:30 p.m.
Cebu City
St. Therese Parish, Lahug, Cebu City ..... 6:00 p.m.
San Roque Parish Church, ... 6:00 p.m.
Wireless, Mandaue city
Sto. Rosario Parish Church, ... 7:00 p.m.
P. del Rosario Street, Cebu City

Readers are requested to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Our Dearly Beloved

Engr. Placido Samala Parcero, Sr.

Of Imus, Cavite

Peacefully joined his Creator on April 1, 2002
at the age of 89.

His remains lie in state at
Buhay Ugnayan Samson Vigil Spaces,
145 Bayan Luma 1, Imus, Cavite.

Interment will be on Thursday, April 4, 2002 at the Imus Cemetery after the 3:30 p.m. Mass at the Imus Cathedral.

"You will be forever be in our hearts"

DR. SOLEDAD LONDON VILLENA

Has peacefully joined our Creator
on March 31, 2002.
She was 69.

Together with her husband **RAMON**; daughter **FE**; brothers, sisters, nephews and other relatives and friends request you to pray for her on her eternal journey with our Lord.

Interment will be on Thursday, April 4, 2002 at Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City after the 1:00 p.m. Mass.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBITUARY

In Loving Memory
of

CUSTODIO L. ALGAR

October 4, 1944 - March 30, 2002
Baguio City - Toronto, Canada

Survived by his sister **Celestina (Be)**; brother-in-law **Onofre Hipo**; nieces **Marianne Pilar** and **Rowena May** and stepbrother **Ronie, Jocelyn, Jane & Rico**. Relatives and friends request the pious readers to say prayer for the eternal repose of his soul.

Private sector employee envies gov't employees' 4-day work week

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice
FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

RECENTLY, I was surprised when my cousin who works in a government office announced that he enjoys a four-day work week. The reason is to boost local tourism. Is this fair to people working in the private sector? Can we in the private sector not be entitled to the same privilege? I also realize that our company is having a difficult year and many rank and file people in our company lost their jobs. Is this practice of a four-day work week good for the country? Please share your views.

Surprised Employee

The government has approved the proposal for government employees during the summer to enjoy a ten-hour day, four-day work week. Schedules are arranged so a number of employees serve from Monday to Thursday and others from Tuesday to Friday. The main reason is to boost local tourism.

Let me view your concern from a number of perspectives. The first is whether the scheme will indeed achieve the objective of boosting local tourism. I propose that the government statistics office do a measurement of the same period last year of actual spending of local tourists in related sectors such as hotels, transportation and restaurants and compare this to what will actually be spent this summer. It would be great to view this scheme as an experiment to check out the validity of the hypothesis of the Department of Tourism. It would make a good thesis topic too for a student pursuing a course in economics. We can debate this issue forever but the best way to find out is through research allowing the facts to speak for themselves.

Now from the dimension of whether the move will benefit the country. Frankly, my personal opinion is that it comes at the wrong time. Many companies such as yours are still reeling from the negative impact of the recession. Government has to focus on priorities. As noted in an earlier article, our country is swamped with problems that government needs to tackle if we are to remain competitive in this age of globalization.

Problems

Peter Wallace notes among others: politics vested interest versus the national good, uncontrolled population growth, weak educational system, corruption, inadequate infrastructure, a stagnant agricultural system, inadequate focus on job creation, major improvements in the judiciary and security. The creative challenge is how to make the best use of this decision that has already been made to alleviate these problems.

If employees from the private sector would request the same privilege, then we cut productivity of the nation by 20%. We cannot afford this loss in productivity. A friend of mine who used to work with a garments factory told me why the American owners decided to close their Philippine operations. The productivity of workers in the Philippine factory was three garments per worker per day. In Sri Lanka where they had similar operations it was 10 garments per worker per day. This suggests even without a four-day work week that a good number of our factories are losing the productivity game.

A consultant in Ancilla whose expertise is in productivity improvement confidently states that companies can increase productivity by 10 to 30 percent without adding people. A few years ago, a client of mine asked us to do a series of training programs for their staff that required 25 of them to be in the classroom learning new skills one week every month for a year. In the one-year period, management realized that the company was overstaffed by 25 people. And to our surprise, productivity rose dramatically during that period. Could it be due to new skills acquired during the training? Or do less people doing the job make them more accountable and therefore more productive?

It would be interesting to know if every government agency has current productivity measures in place and whether productivity will in fact rise during this period. Or if government operations could function flawlessly in the absence of a significant number of the work force. Then this may be a signal that a streamlining of the bureaucracy may in fact be a necessity.

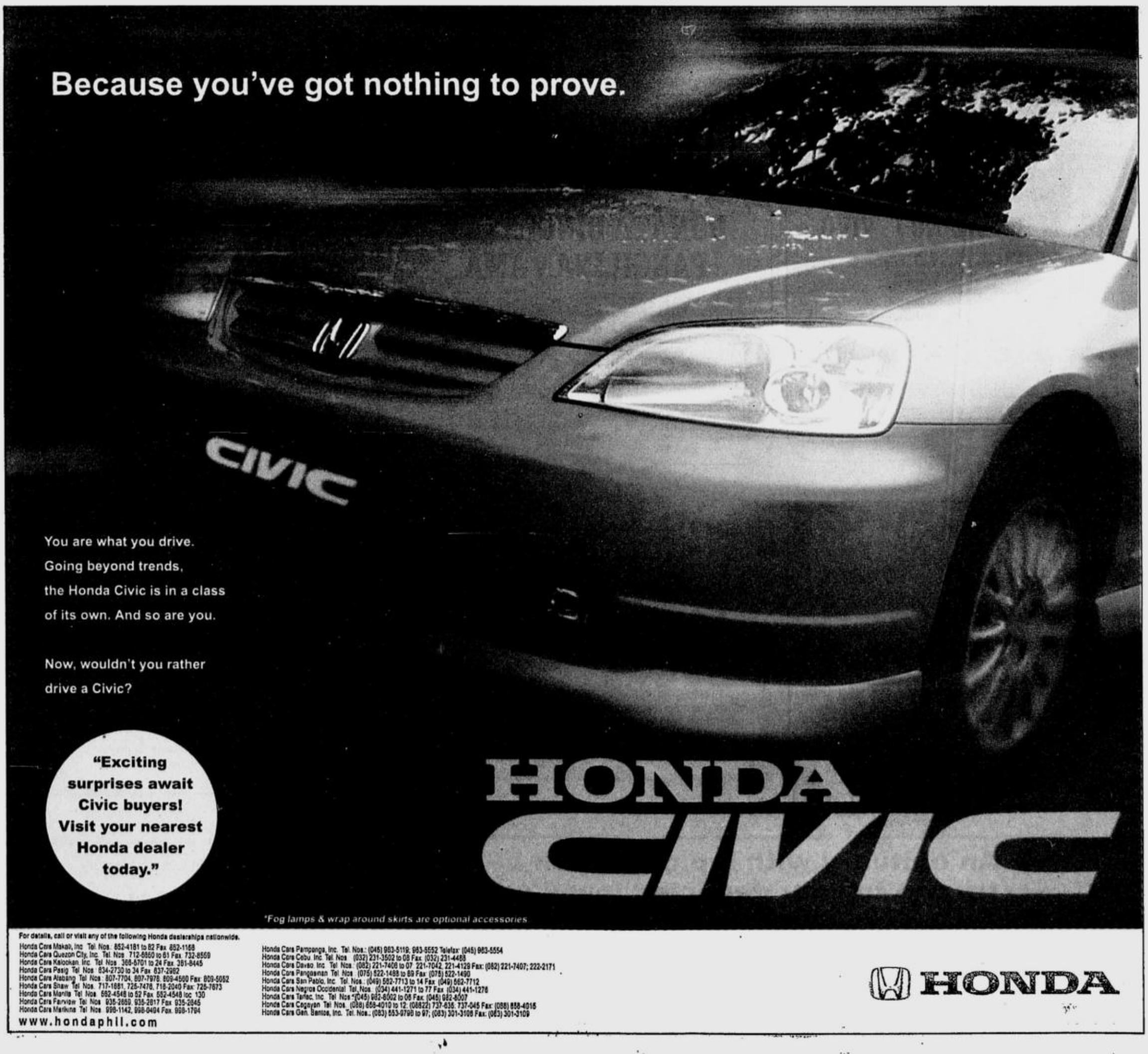
Taxpayer's perspective

Now taking the point of view of the taxpayer, the question to ask is how a four-day work week can improve the quality of services . We are too familiar with the long lines and the "facilitation fees" that happen to get service done in some government agencies. Often, actions and decisions are delayed because the decision makers are not available. We also recognize with appreciation, on the other hand, the government agencies that have reengineered their processes delivering service at record time. Do you think a three-day weekend will do the trick? As a taxpayer, we would be grateful if we can now expect that government offices will be ready to provide service at 7:00 a.m. and close shop at 6:00 p.m. Then, there would be nothing to complain about.

Don't get me wrong. I am an advocate of vacations. Stress management experts say that one would need a full week to completely recharge during the year. I was just wondering whether getting government employees to avail of their vacation leave for a whole week taking turns during the summer would not achieve the same or better results in terms of tourism. Then again, how many ordinary government employees can afford to spend and therefore boost tourism?

Now on your question of being entitled too to a four-day work week in the private sector as well. We know that business today is done in real time. How can companies manage their global customers with a four-day work week? We will surely lose more business to China and other Asian countries where people are willing to work more for less. Meantime, count your blessings. You are fortunate to still hold on to a full time job.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send comments, feedback or requests for advice through e-mail to ancillaedc@ pacific.net.ph or fax to 892-2902.)



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HONDA

How do you get people off the phone when you have work to do?

DEAR WW: How do you get people off the phone without being a jerk? People are so rude, they just yammer away as if I had nothing else to do.
Just Trying To Take Care Of Business

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

Having grown up in Jersey, when I think of rude people the Garden State Parkway always leaps to mind. But I just heard about a guy in Burley, Idaho who redefines the word rude and puts those Jersey drivers to shame. He was cited by police for reckless driving after he'd damaged seven other cars. Without even leaving his parking space, he bashed four cars in front of him and three more behind!

Now, what's that got to do with telephone manners? Plenty-because one person with a telephone and too much time can bash your schedule as effectively as that Burley driver bashed all those cars. So I turned to Alec Mackenzie's book, "The Time Trap" (Amacom, 1997), for tips on how to get off the line without causing static. This is one of those rare books that actually pays back the time it takes to read it. I've adapted the following from it.

Set up your ending at the beginning. One of the best ways to keep calls short is to create a sense of focus and urgency at the beginning. Start your work calls with, "Hello, what can I do for you?" which cues the other person that you're there to talk business.

Signal the ending. When you're ready to stop say, "Before we hang up..." This alerts the other party that the end is near. Mention your time limit. Ever called someone and exchanged a few pleasantries, only to be told as you're about to get to business that the person has only a minute left? You'll make business easier for both you and your callers if you state your time limit at the start of a conversation.

(Mackenzie suggests that you keep a three-minute egg timer on your desk to time your calls. It looks silly, but it works.)

Have a plausible excuse ready. Can't get a talker off the phone? Tell him you've got to leave for a meeting, or that there's someone waiting to see you, or that you're on a tight deadline. Those are excuses anyone can understand.

Don't answer your phone. Anyone who knows me will get a good laugh out of this one because I'm as compulsive as they come when it comes to answering the phone. But I've learned that 95 percent of all calls are easily returned. If your back is really to the wall, don't answer the phone in the first place.

Give some people a phone and, like that guy in Burley, they're an accident waiting to happen. But they don't have to wreak their havoc on you. Use Alec's tips and you'll be able to call off their longwinded rambles!

Here are the results of the recent workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com poll:

Which song sums up your feelings about long phone calls?

—"I'll Never Say Goodbye," 10.3 percent

—"Taking Care of Business," 39.3 percent

—"I Get Along Without You Very Well," 50.3 percent

Our winning strategy on getting long-winded people off the phone comes from

K. B. in Benicia, CA. "An old farmer I knew in South Australia often abruptly ended our conversations (which he deemed were not as important as his work), with 'I will let you go now.' It left me with the feeling that I was the one ending the conversation. Nice old man who had his priorities in place and he still didn't offend."

(Send feedback to bob@workingwounded.com*)*

How do you rate as a leader?

RECIPES *for* LEARNING

Moje Ramos Aquino

THE NINE leadership competencies proposed by authors Patricia Guggenheimer and Mary Diana Szulc do not include traditional "leadership" competencies such as problem solving and decision making, marketing expertise, financial savvy and computer literacy. The reason is that these skills tempt leaders to "do" instead of "lead."

Now that you are familiar with all nine competencies, rate yourself on your leadership competencies using the Leadership Competency Grid (Figure 1) from the book "Understanding Leadership Competencies." On a scale of 0 to10, place an asterisk on your rating. Zero means zero knowledge, skills and inclination about the competency and 10 means mastery of the competency and ability to guide and teach others in that competency. Then, connect the asterisks for a visual diagram of your own personal leadership competencies grid.

Effects

Now given your own organizational culture, the competencies and personal styles of the people you lead, the situation you face, the goals you want to achieve and other factors important to you, which of the nine competencies do you believe have the greatest positive effects on your success as a leader? Which have the most negative effects on your success? Which competencies do you want to develop more? Which competencies do you use more often and which are you comfortable with?

Feedback

Thanks to Ramon Caluza for this feedback: "If only our leaders would sit down a little bit and come up with a vision of our country, of our organizations. If only we, the citizens of this country, do the same. Only then could we really be a country on the move towards real progress.

"Good government does depend not only on those elected by the people. A lot depends on the people themselves. It seems we have forgotten, or we seem not so inclined to remember, the basic tenet of a real democracy: a government of the people, by the people and for the people. We have to move towards a more responsible citizenry. We have to participate in the visioning of the ideal country we like, that promotes the common good. We have to participate in decision-making. We have to work for the realization of our vision, not only wait for others to do it for us.

"This entails a lot of sacrifice, patriotism, a lot of dreaming and visioning. Pursuit of personal profit has really stunted the realization of many beautiful dreams we have as Filipino people, as a nation. Yet, there is hope. Even Baguio City can be restored to its glory: a civic-oriented community, place of real leisure, etc. Over there remains a group of non-profit pursuing citizenry. A nation without a vision is doomed for disaster, if not death."

ASTD update

Learning and performance professionals from around the world will convene at The American Society for Training & Development's (ASTD) 2002 International Conference and Expo, taking place June 2-6 at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA.

The ASTD International Conference and Expo is the leading event for everyone involved in workplace learning and performance. With three world-class keynote speakers, seven conferences-within-a-conference, 300 educational sessions in 10 education tracks, attendees from more than 80 countries, and training suppliers from around the world in the Expo, this event is something HR professionals can't afford to miss.

Highlights of ASTD 2002 include:

-Top-name keynote speakers, including researcher and author Jim Collins on "Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap...and Others Don't," Nobel Prize winner Dr. Oscar Arias on "Corporate Responsibility, Ethics, and Values in Today's World," and former astronaut, Dr. Mae Jemison on "Aiming High and Knowing How to Get There."

-Educational sessions in 10 tracks, including Careers, E-Learning, Leadership/Management Development, Leading Change Today, Measurement and Evaluation, Managing the Learning Function, Performance Consulting, Personal & Professional Effectiveness, Training Fundamentals, and Workplace Issues.

-Choice of seven conferences-within-a-conference, which are smaller specialized conferences providing expert in-depth content. Conferences are planned for Chief Learning Officers, consultants, federal government trainers, measuring and evaluating ROI, creative training, standards in e-learning, and learning how to "lead leaders into the future."

-Pre-conference workshops will take place May 31 and June 1.

-Networking with colleagues from 80 other countries during lunches and breaks, networking receptions, "Forums at Four," and the ASTD Mardi Gras Celebration.

-Career Fair, featuring resume critiques, career coaching, sessions on how to write a resume, how to advance in your organization, conducting a job search, and more.

-Training suppliers from around the world that will showcase their latest products and services.

For more information please call Donna Pellobello at 715-9332 or visit their interactive site at http://www.astd.org/astd2002/tour_expo.html. There are no brochures available but Donna can send you some literature by fax. When you register, you may join Paradigms & Paradoxers Consultants and use Delegation Code 114072.

By the way, today is the birthday of the nicest guy, Ricky Garcia. Happy birthday, friend!

(Send feedback to Moje.Ramos@Aquino.ZZN.com)

Figure 1. Leadership Competency Grid

Competency	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Passion	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Humor	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Courage	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Integrity and Trust	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Energy/Vitality/Enthusiasm	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Building a Team	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Setting Priorities	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Creativity	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Vision	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

Taipan's story inspires people at work

(John Gokongwei's speech given last March 1, 2002 at the unveiling of the marker for the John Gokongwei School of Management Building of the Ateneo de Manila University, which was published in two parts in this section last March 20 and 27, elicited a lot of positive feedback from readers. Here are some of these feedback.)

First, I'd like to extend my thanks for your featuring the article on Mr. John Gokongwei – "I Survived." It reflects and provides a motivation to many new graduates today—that success is not an easy ladder or stairway, but rather a series of challenges and risks.

This is exactly what I share with my students and participants in both the academe and the business circuit (where I conduct motivational and attitudinal training).

Ricardo de Vera

Your feature this Wednesday March 27 of taipan Gokongwei is very inspiring and I hope you find other taipans who you can interview. By reading your feature I learned a lot. Thanks!

Earl Foo

Thank you for featuring the speech of Mr. John Gokongwei delivered at Ateneo de Manila University last March 1, 2002. It was very inspiring.

Albert Santillan

I was impressed by the tale of John Gokongwei in today's Inquirer, who must be one of the most respectable business men in the Philippines. I praise the Inquirer for the introduction of a good business man because it can give a dream to the young generation of the Philippines. They will understand by this tale how the older generation had survived through the wars and hard times. They will also learn that the success and fortune can not be acquired as easy as they may think. I hope the Inquirer will continue to introduce other business taipans and politicians too in the future.

K.C.Sung

I read your article on John Gokongwei today. My question is: If creditors had seized their home and business, how were they able to send his siblings to China? Where did he get the money?

Debbi Arkoncel

I'm a sucker for success stories and I read with glee and excitement John Gokongwei's speech... I am helping my son Caleb prepare for his Validectory address for next Tuesday (Faith Christian Academy, San Juan) and Gowengkei's insights will surely be a tremendous help. I will appreciate it if you let me know how I can access a copy online. Thanks and God richly bless you!

Rev. Jovie Galaraga
Living Way Ministries Int'l.

I like the way you featured Mr. John Gokongwei's "A Taipan's Tale Of Survival." This story is great not only for the businessman who has the money but also those struggling businessman to be. I really appreciate your doing this because it gives us a wider look on how to achieve our goal no matter how small it is as long as we have the vision of success.

I may not yet read the second part but have already the passion to read and read it again. I know this is too much, but can you give me the whole story so that I can share this with my boss and co-employees. I know they would want to read this also.

Raymund Mariano

I find Mr. Gokongwei's rags to riches life story interesting. Can you e-mail me a copy of the said speech, for I would like to send my sister, who is now in the States, a copy of this great man's life story. She has been a sort of fan of Mr Gokongwei, and I know that she'll be very appreciative if this article would reach her. Thank you very much in advance and I hope that you will continue to publish more of this.

Jameson C. Chua

Mr. John Gokongwei's message is a very meaningful guideline to anyone in the business group who start from the scratch. Hence, I say that this is what we call in our barangay lingo as "*gamogamong naging lawin.*" How about another story of a bigger taipan in the person of Mr. Lucio Tan? We care to know more of how these people have strive hard their way up to the business ladder. Your story is very encouraging indeed! Thanks.

Bert Tomeldan

Dear Mr. John Gokongwei Jr.

I am Jr. like you. Your speech is so great that it provides inspiration to the young generation of entrepreneurs who will soon run the very volatile business of this beloved country of ours. Enjoy your retirement.

Felipe Roque

SURVIVING CHANGE AT THE PEOPLE AT WORK LIVE! SEMINAR SERIES

Lirio O. Mapa, vice president of the Center for Leadership and Change, Inc., shares her reflections on how to survive workplace change in the recently concluded People at Work Live! Seminar Series. The March seminar series was made possible with the support of Job Market, Equitable PCI Bank, ABS-CBN Publishing/ Metro Working Mom, Edsamail Philippines, Adobo Interactive, Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, Inc., Center for Leadership and Change, Inc. and S & G International Consulting Inc. Ms. Mapa will conduct a seminar on "Building Synergy for Organizational Excellence in the next People at Work Live! Seminar Series (Key Competencies Series) which will be held on May 28, 29 & 30, 2002 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. each day at the Santiago Hall, Equitable PCI Bank Tower I, Makati Ave., Makati City. E-mail pawlive@edsamail.com.ph for more information.

To see and believe . . . (From page B12)

fillment ranks highest. But this self-fulfillment is just an expression of the deepest longing in man—the longing to be united with God, his Creator. St. Augustine rightly puts it when he said, "Our hearts are restless, Oh Lord, until they find their rest in You!" We start to experience a new life or a renewed life when we accept the reality that we need God, that we try to unite our minds and hearts with the Lord Jesus Who is alive and has risen from the dead!

Easter Sunday, which is a great celebration of our faith in the Risen Lord, becomes a real event for us when we rise above the feelings of emptiness and meaninglessness in our lives. The joy of the Risen Lord is experienced every time we work enthusiastically, making others feel that work is enjoyable, that the job is a vocation which gives meaning to one's life, that one's labor is an expression of one's love for others and even for God. Having faith in Jesus Christ Risen from the dead will make every drop of sweat, every muscle pain we feel and every mental fatigue we suffer in doing our job, spiritual treasures which fill up the emptiness in our soul. Thus filled we rise with Christ and every soul who suffers the pain of emptiness will see the presence of the Risen Savior in us!

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PEOPLE at WORK

Editor **Raul O. Marcelo** ◉ *Subsection Editor* **Regina Galang Reyes**

POST-EASTER REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

'There is hope in the dark'

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

IT'S not easy to be an ordinary worker these days when—despite the optimism of some politicians—the country's economy compels many companies to either shut down or to lay off workers in order to stay alive. The majority of us who are not particularly gifted or talented and who work at jobs that hundreds of others could fill would feel the most threatened by what they perceive to be a bleak economic situation in our country. They know they are not indispensable, that anytime they could lose their jobs. As they hear of another company going bankrupt, or another friend or relative getting laid off, they worry. They worry because they find reports confusing—on one hand, they hear that foreign investors have lost faith in our system; on the other, they are told that technocrats happily predict the Philippines' economic recovery. They are, in short, in the dark.

Last Sunday's gospel speaks of yet another mystery in the life of Jesus that happened in the dark: his rising from the dead. You will notice that the most significant events in Jesus's life happened in the dark, in the dead of night: his birth (when the shepherds received with fear the message from an angel announcing the birth of the messiah); the flight to Egypt (when an angel roused Joseph in his sleep and instructed him to flee with Mary and the baby Jesus); the arrest, trial and sentencing (which all occurred between The Garden of Gethsemane and the court of Pilate in a matter of hours, again in the dead of night); and his resurrection (which left an empty tomb for the women to behold at dawn).

Might not this fact bring hope for us who are in the habit of associating God's presence only with light? When everything is okay with our life—we have a stable job, we eat three times a day, we have a happy family, everything seems sunny and bright—we feel light and we believe God truly loves us. But when uncertainty creeps in—as now, when nothing seems so sure and worries haunt us at the workplace or elsewhere—we say we're "in the dark" and feel abandoned by God.

When we're confused and insecure, feeling threatened by forces we can't control, unsure of where we're going because we're "in the dark," let us recall the events in Jesus's life that happened in the night and we can welcome the dark as God's mysterious presence. Let us not lose heart when we're in the dark. Instead, let's continue work in faith, to do our job honorably, and to trust Him who made us and who will never let us down. Dark and light, day and night are but palm and back of God's providential hand. God loves us all with a love that knows no A.M. or P.M. To our finite mind, His consolations may come with light, but in His infinite love, grace comes to us when we're in the dark.

To see and believe in the Risen Lord

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

THE EASTER narrative in the Gospel of John shows that one proof of the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus is the empty tomb. This was not thought so, however, in the first moments of the event. Mary Magdalene, the very first who "came upon the tomb" and "saw that the stone had been moved away" did not think that her Beloved Lord had risen from the dead. In fact, she reported to Simon Peter and the other disciples that "The Lord has been taken from the tomb". For Mary Magdalene, the empty tomb did not bring the Good News that her Beloved Lord has risen and is alive!

But the Easter story continues to relate that Peter and another disciple ran towards the tomb. They did not see the body of the Lord. They saw only the cloth and wrappings used for the burial lying on the floor and "rolled up in a place by itself" They "saw and believed." The empty tomb became an instrument of faith for the disciples; it verified their faith in the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus. Seeing the empty tomb, the disciples experienced fullness of their faith and life in Jesus, the Risen Lord!

For us who are disciples of the Risen Lord, what could be our "empty tomb" experiences? What is the significance of the Resurrection in our day to day life? Is Easter Sunday just another celebration in the Church? Does it have resonance in our life? Feelings of emptiness have become part of our life experiences. We do a lot of things and engage in activities in order to fill our life with something. We cannot bear the feeling of emptiness within us. We long to be complete. We want to "full – fill" our lives. Fulfillment for many of us means having acquired possessions, having accomplished a lot of achievement, having amassed great wealth and fortune. We would work so hard in order to live and live our lives to the full. Yet, it is a common experience that after all our labors and hard work we still feel a sense of emptiness, a feeling that something is still lacking in us. These could be our "empty tomb" experiences, but where do they lead us to? How can we make these painful experiences source of an "Easter experience"?

The disciples "saw and believed." We need to "see" our emptiness. We need to accept that we cannot fill ourselves with our own selves. We have to understand that only God can fill us completely.

In the hierarchy of needs that must be satisfied for one to be greatly motivated to work efficiently, the need for self-ful-

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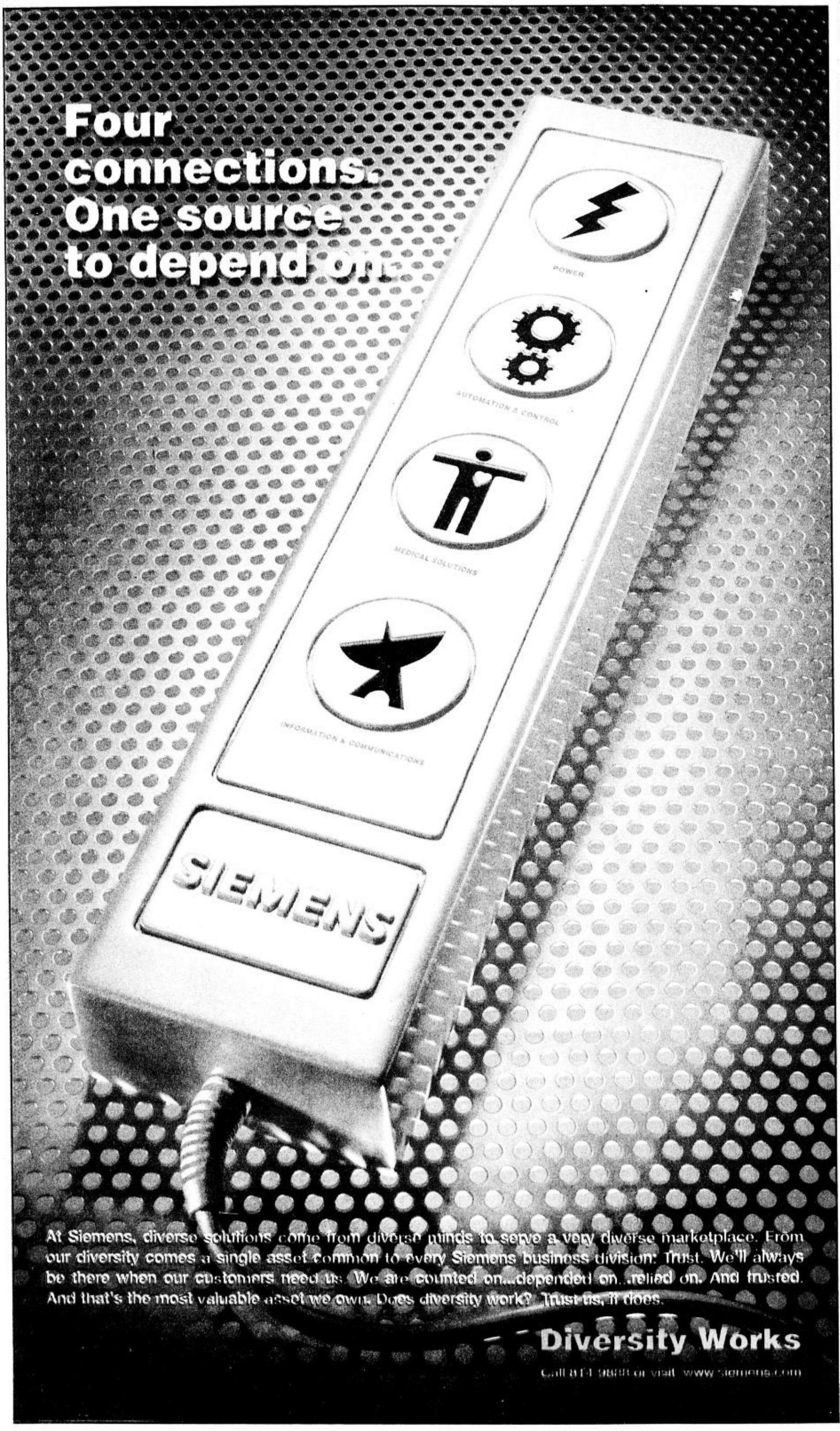

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LIFESTYLE

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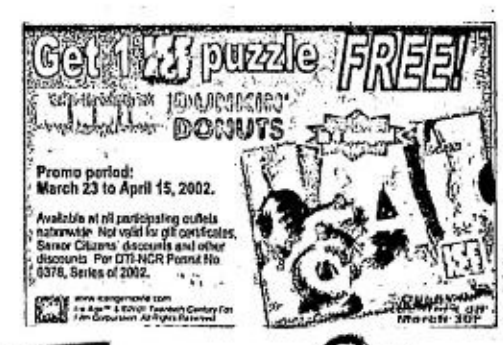
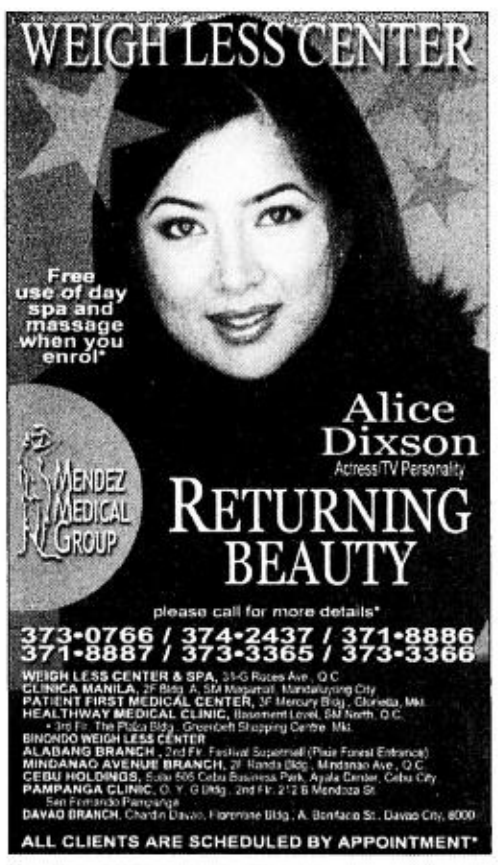
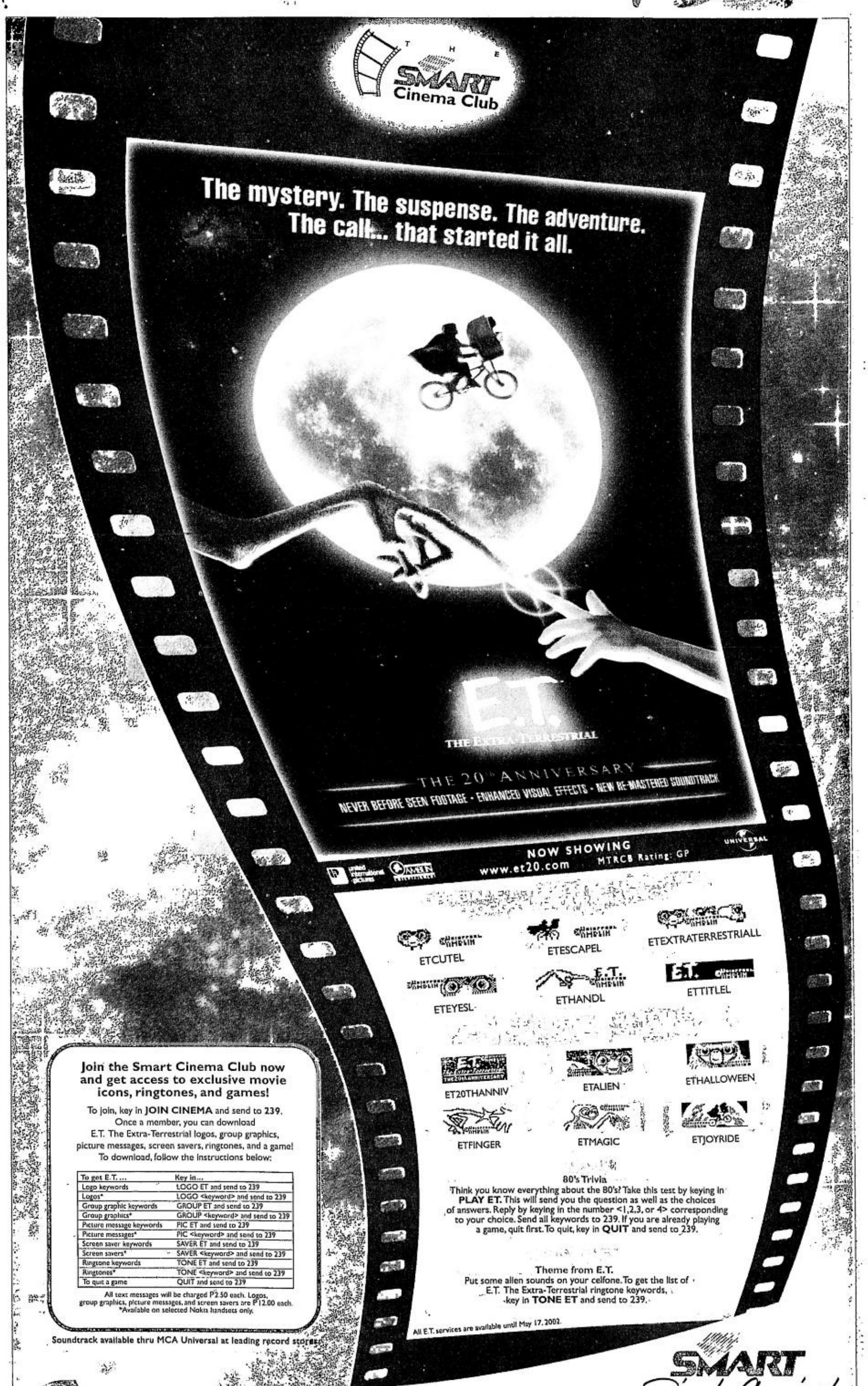


kicks off summer with a splash

Slip off those school shoes, strap on those sexy sandals and step up as 2bU! slides into the sunny season with sizzling stories on stylish fashion, superb jobs, steamy parties, sinful desserts, stress-beating exercises, soulful music and splendid getaways





SMOCKED net empire-cut top with lace tube lining by Patrice Ramos-Diaz; draped lace and shantung silk skirt by Mich Dulce; label-covered shoes by Paolo Raymundo

PAISLEY shirt with circular sleeve by Paolo Raymundo; vintage print dress by Mich Dulce

EMBROIDERED top from Freeway; tiered patchwork dirndl skirt by Mich Dulce

Hippie chic

To get this season's look, check out your mom's closet for things left over from her days as a flower child

PATCHWORK top by Gian Romano; tiered skirt from Defect

By Mich Dulce
Contributor
Photos by Paolo Raymundo

FASHION has never been this pretty. You don't need to be an avid catwalk follower to notice that romance is the buzzword of everyone this season. In Paris, Milan, London and New York, the Spring-Summer 2002 collections exuded love, peace and happiness with each model's step. As Tom Ford told Women's Wear Daily, "Beautiful clothes are important right now. Nobody wants to look subdued or somber or in mourning. Looking beautiful is respectful to other people because it is reassuring."

A blend of '70s hippie chic and nymph-like silhouettes epitomizes this season's ideal look. With that in mind, here's a list of must-have things for the right fashion look.

The color white—Viktor and Rolf's shift from black to white this season is evidence enough that white is this season's biggest trend. Rei Kawakubo's spring summer collection for Comme des Garcons was a play on the different kinds of white. If you think you can't pull off the monochromatic look, then at least mix in some white pieces in your wardrobe.

Lace—If ultra-femme and innocent are the most sought-after images, then there is nothing more appropriate than lace. But lace should be demure and dainty, not sexy and daring.

Embroidery—If you haven't found anything to do this summer, try doing some arts and crafts. Embroidery and hand-stitching have been seen on everything from Louis Vuitton to Gap, and seemed suitable for both the high street and the beach. If you can't do the sewing yourself, look for scallop-edged embroidery details or pretty floral themes in tops, trousers and skirts.

Patchwork—It's been a Paolo Raymundo staple for quite a while, and the world's finally caught up. Note Nicholas Ghesquiere's organic version for Balenciaga in fused brocade, florals and checks in one little dress. It is also another potential DIY (do-it-yourself) project to fight summer boredom.

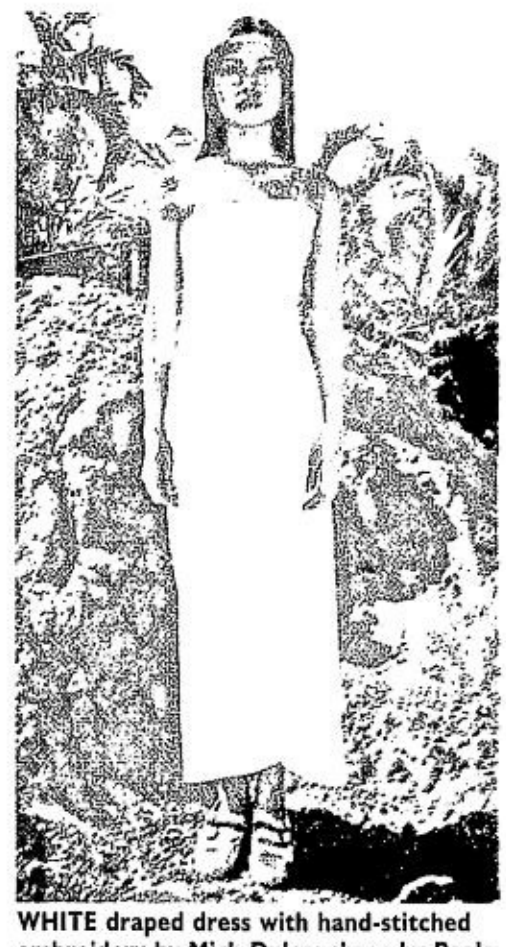
Empire cut—After seasons of low waists and fitted bodices, fashion has reverted to the '70s baby-doll look. From Italian designers like Alberta Ferretti to Parisian Louis Vuitton (with their overexposed paisley print sundress), the empire cut is a cool and comfortable alternative for the summer.

Fringe—Stringy leather belts were seen a plenty in the Milan collection. Even Belgian designer Ann Demeulemeester used fringe to accent her clothes. A word of advice: Don't over do it.

Chiffon—For a dressier look, chiffon will make you elegant effortlessly and still keep the fluidity of the season. Even McQueen went soft with his ruffled chiffon dotted flamenco dresses. There is no better way to achieve that light, fresh and floaty look than with chiffon.

Dirndl skirt—A dirndl skirt is a full skirt that gathers into a waistband or bodice. This full skirt or, even better, a tiered variation is a must if you want to achieve the prairie girl look. Look for below the knee lengths or longer.

Peasant top—This season's key element reminds us of Cecile Zamora's Snow White collection in 1998. From the classic floral embroidered cotton to the sheer printed off-shoulder version, the peasant top is definitely going to be seen a lot this summer.

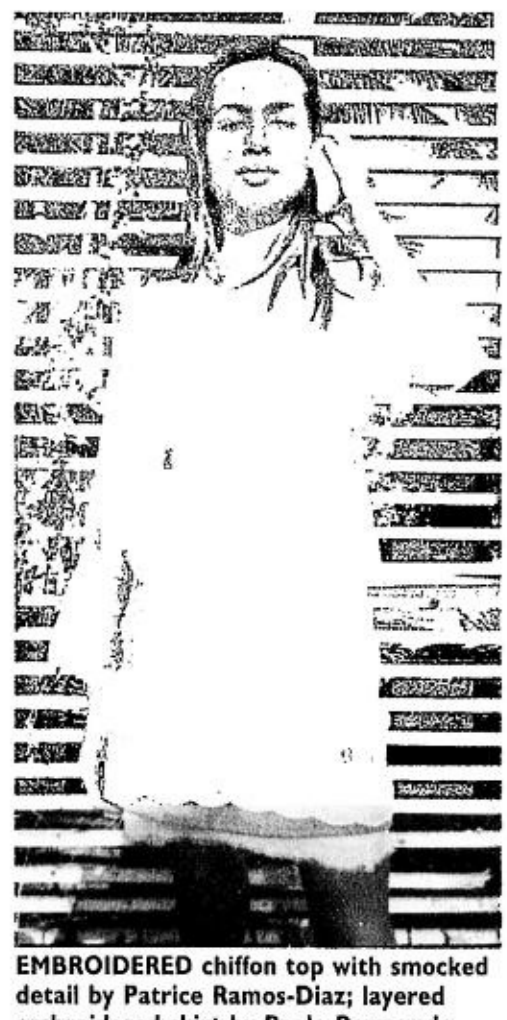


WHITE draped dress with hand-stitched embroidery by Mich Dulce; shoes by Paolo Raymundo

GREEN and white striped ruffled top with smocked detail from Defect; brown fringe belt and cream knee-length skirt with floral detail from Freeway

Ruffles—Valentino, Chanel, Comme des Garcons, Preen and Viktor and Rolf, among many others, had this same accent in their collections. A carry-over from last season's Victoriana trend, ruffles are just another indication the season is about looking feminine.

Smocking, bows, liberty prints, ethnic accents, beading and paisley prints are other details that will help achieve the new romantic look. If you don't feel like going all out for the season's trend, you can always update your current wardrobe by choosing and mixing up a few elements. Before splurging on brand-new items, check out your mom's closet. She might have the things you need left over from her days as a flower child.



EMBROIDERED chiffon top with smocked detail by Patrice Ramos-Diaz; layered embroidered skirt by Paolo Raymundo

MODEL: DIVINE LEE
CLOTHES: DEFECT (GLORIETTA 3); FREEWAY (GLORIETTA 1, SM NORTH EDSA, ROBINSONS PLACE MANILA, ROBINSONS GALLERIA, FESTIVAL SUPERMALL, SM SOUTHMALL, SM SUCAT, ROBINSONS PASIG, ROBINSONS NOVALICHES, ROBINSONS PAMPANGA); GIAN ROMANO (TEL. [0917] 376-4596); MICH DULCE (TEL. [0917] 527-2445, E-MAIL CANDYCOLOUREDKISSES@YAHOO.COM); PAOLO RAYMUNDO (TEL. [0917] 614-4316); PATRICE RAMOS-DIAZ (TEL. 564-7041) AND YARDSALE (52 KATIPUNAN CORNER ROSEVILLE STS., WHITE PLAINS, QC)

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April 6, 2002 Glorietta Activity Center

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Find out who survives the E-Mazing race challenge
Update yourselves with the latest fashion trends by Sari-Sari
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The fun doesn't stop there. Register now for your online invitation and get a chance to win a gift certificate for a one-month membership at the RCBC Plaza's The Spa gym! The lucky raffle winner will be announced on April 6, 2002 at the Glorietta Activity Center.

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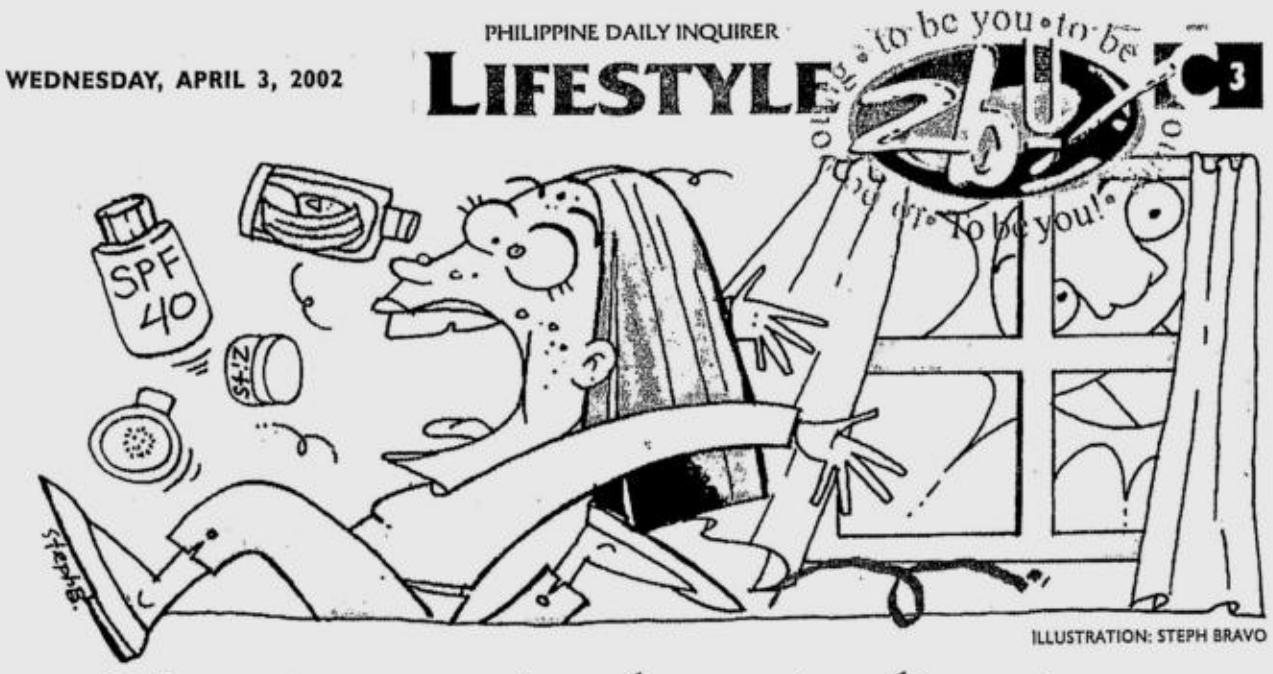

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

How to survive beauty disasters

AS a student, I couldn't wait for summer vacation to start so I could spend as much time as I wanted with my friends and loved ones. Unfortunately, summertime was also the gateway for all beauty disasters. I wasted several great days cooped up in the house, hiding my zit-infested skin and limp, lifeless hair.

Humidity in this country is the perfect breeding ground for pimple- and odor-causing bacteria. Other common woes are frizzy hair, greasy scalp, freckles, faded highlights and melted makeup. I have, in this article, gathered useful tips that got me through these hair and body problems. It may require more work in your routine, but the results will be worth it.

Hair: What is your hair type and texture? Don't fight it, just go with the flow. Work some leave-on conditioner while damp if your hair is wavy, curly or chemically treated. It will weigh down the first two types to prevent the big, bushy, untamed look. Comb through when damp and leave it alone after that. Result will be soft waves or sexy ringlets.

On chemically treated hair, leave-on conditioners will act as a barrier between the hair shaft, and the harsh rays of the sun and will prevent color from fading. I really recommend a leave-on conditioner with SPF for this particular type. If you are going to the beach, invest on a hat because the sun's rays are too strong for conditioner to handle.

For limp hair, wash with voluminizing shampoo and apply conditioner only on the tips of the hair. Apply setting lotion or light gel through hair, and dry from underneath first. By this I mean bend from the waist and brush all hair forward while drying. Flip up when almost dry and fix in the style you want—instant body and bounce.

Maintenance: Pack a spray gel to de-tangle straight or wavy hair and tame fly-aways. If your curly hair starts getting bushy, wet slightly to reactivate styling product and tame them. If you don't want to bother with it, just tie it up in a ponytail.

Just too hot and sweaty for neck area? Never leave home without a hair cincher like a banana clip, barrette or scrunchy for medium to long hair. For short to medium-length hair, slick hair off your face with gel or pomade, or use bobby pins with ornaments to hold down stray strands.

Body: Bluntly put, heat and humidity make most people stink.

• Apply your deodorant/antiperspirant after every shower, especially before sleeping. Apparently, research from Procter & Gamble says that since we sweat less in the evening while sleeping, the chemicals will absorb better and will give us a higher degree of protection for the next day.

• Showers are encouraged twice a day, and that is when you wake up in the morning and before sleeping at night. Switch from your regular soap to an antibacterial deodorant formula to keep odor-causing bacteria at bay.

• If you are prone to pimples on your body, wash with a liquid cleanser with salicylic acid such as Clean and Clear facial wash or Neutrogena Acne Wash. Lather on with washcloth and leave for 30 seconds to a minute. This will exfoliate skin while treating zits. A dandruff shampoo with menthol provides the same service with extra soothing effect.

• Use cornstarch powder to keep you extra dry. Concentrate on groin, underarms, neck and on the crook of your arms and behind knees as these sweat the most.

• Wear 100-percent cotton clothes. Anything manmade will not absorb sweat and will cause rashes.

• Avoid coffee, spicy food and smoking. They not only give you bad breath, they also make you sweat more, too.

Makeup and face care? That's another article.

For any questions or products you want to road-test, write to Makeover 911, PDI Lifestyle, or fax to 897-4805

CENTRAL COLLEGES OF THE PHILIPPINES

H.R. Reyes Scholarship Grants

Central Colleges of the Philippines announces P10 Million worth of scholarships under the H.R. Reyes Scholarship Grants for all four and five-year college courses offered by the School for School Year 2002-2003.

Qualifying examinations will be held on **April 13, 2001 (Saturday)** at 8:00 A.M. Applications must be filed at least five days before the examination date together with Form 138, Certificate of Good Moral Character, Certificate of Honor Received (if any) and three 1 x 1 ID photos with the CCP Scholarship Committee at 52 Aurora Blvd., Quezon city (near SM Centerpoint).

The qualifying test may be taken by all **High School graduates with 4th Year grades of at least 80% in English, Physics and Mathematics.** There will be seven categories of scholars. Those qualifying under the highest category (Category A) will receive free tuition and miscellaneous fees for whole course plus a semestral stipend of P10,000, while those under the lowest category (Category G) will receive free tuition and miscellaneous fees for one semester.

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SALUTATORIANS

Free tuition and miscellaneous fees for two (2) semesters; stipend of P1,500 for one (1) semester; and free use of textbooks.

THIRD TO TENTH PLACE AMONG GRADUATING CLASS

Free tuition and miscellaneous fees for one (1) semester.

FINAL GRADE OF 85% OR ABOVE IN ENGLISH AND SCIENCE SUBJECTS WITH NO GRADE LOWER THAN 83%

Free tuition fee for one (1) semester.

FINAL GRADE OF 82% OR ABOVE IN ENGLISH AND SCIENCE SUBJECTS WITH NO GRADE LOWER THAN 80%

Free half-tuition fee for one (1) semester.

For more information, please visit or call:
The Scholarship Committee, 3rd Floor Engineering Building
Central Colleges of the Philippines
52 Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City
Telephone Numbers: 715-5170 to 75, local 132
Telefax: 414-9051 Direct line: 715-3777
Website: http://www.ccp.edu.ph

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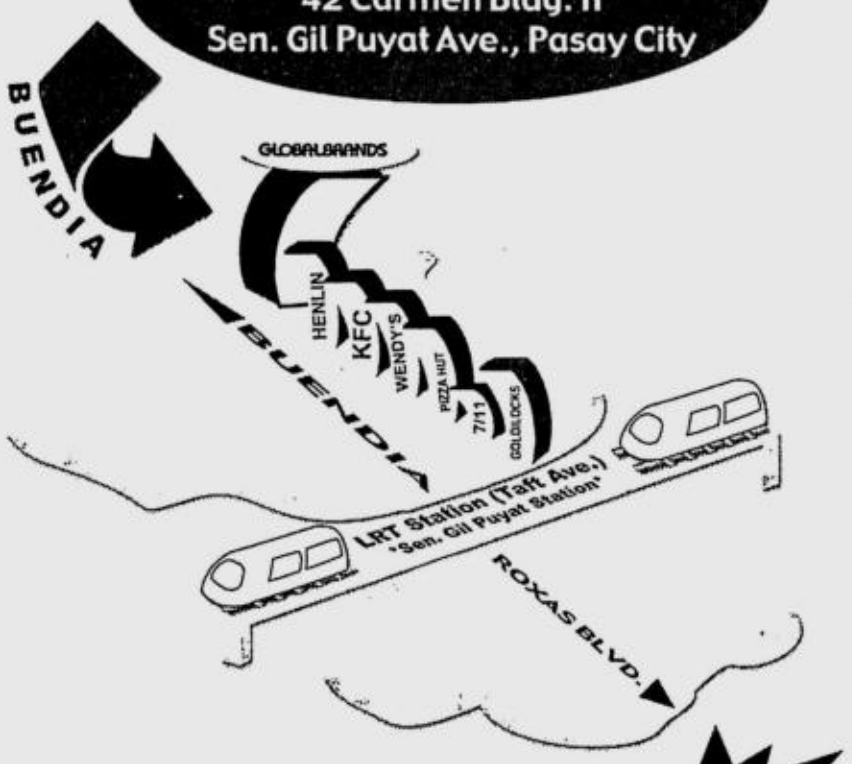

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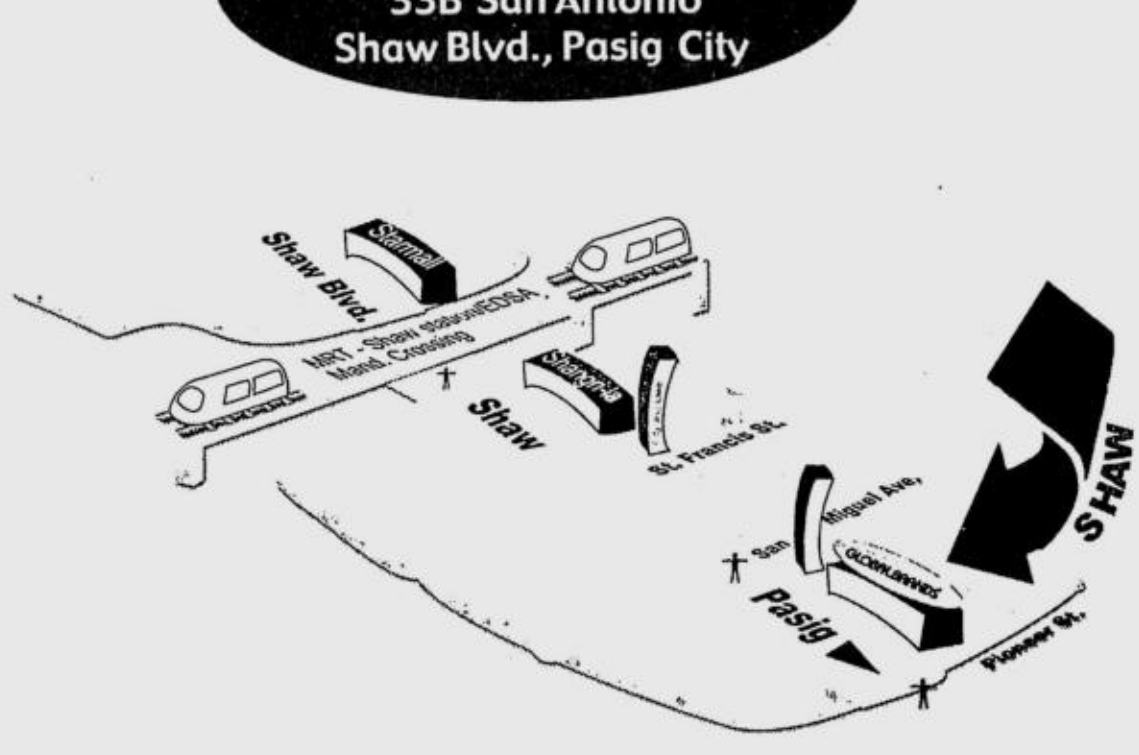

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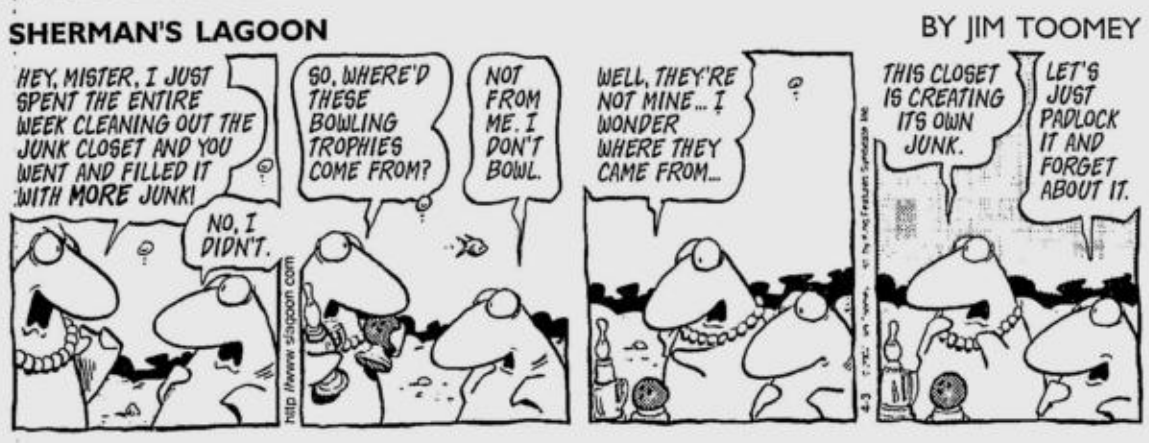
SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY



SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

CHICHOY CHOKOY BY IKOY RICIO

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Alec Baldwin, Jennie Garth, Marlon Brando, Eddie Murphy
Happy Birthday: You will welcome change this year. You will be intent on finding the solution to any problem you encounter, and you will join organizations that make reforms. Your input into causes you believe in will lead you to new friendships. This is a year to flourish. Your numbers are 9, 11, 16, 23, 41, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Spend time with friends and family and ask them to pitch in and help you make changes to your home. You don't have to be extra-vagant to make your place more comfortable.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your focus should be on philosophy and attitude. You will be in a position to help others today. Take part in an event that is charitable but don't donate more than you can afford.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will have an opportunity to make some money. Invest in yourself and your abilities. You are far more talented than you give yourself credit for.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You'll get ahead if you share your ideas with somebody you trust. Your view of the situation that you are facing appears to be amazingly accurate.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Career changes are looking good. You can wheel and deal today if you want but don't be unreasonable. People in higher positions will bend over backward to help you reach your goals.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Nothing will stand in your way if you are determined. Your ideas will be good and your ability to talk others into helping you looks positive. Mix business with pleasure and you will get that much further ahead.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The world is on your side but some of your relatives may not be. Keep your thoughts to yourself and focus on creative endeavors and having fun. Socialize with new friends and you will discover all sorts of interesting new pastimes.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Get out and do things. Little pleasure trips will ease your stress and help you get back to what's important. Make arrangements to get together with friends and reminisce. Moneymaking projects will develop.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may want to rethink your career direction or your direction in life. Past partners may try to come back into your life. You are best to be blunt and avoid going through the same problems.

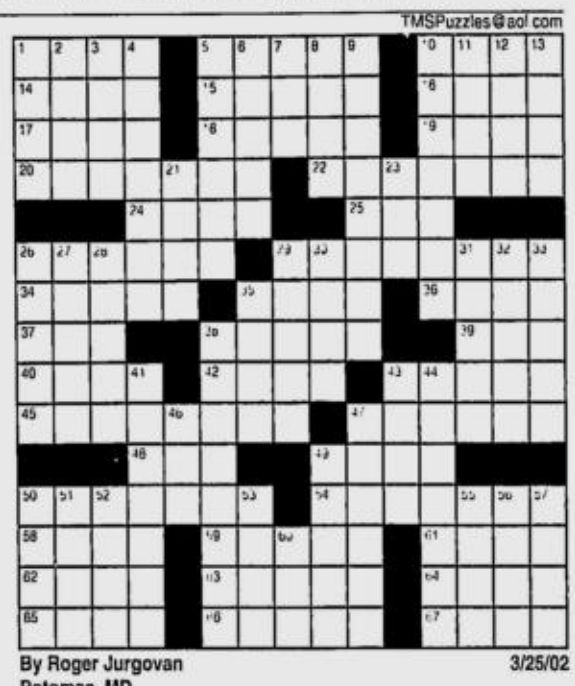
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Make those long-overdue changes. You can please the people closest to you if you include them in your plans. You will have plenty of opportunities to meet new people and start new partnerships.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Play the game well and you will never look back. You know how to wheel and deal so get the ball rolling. Behind-the-scenes activity will be where you'll shine. Problems surrounding your home and family may arise if you are too secretive with the ones you love.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Get busy and get involved in worthwhile groups. You will meet some special people if you are giving and generous with your time. The more you do for others today the more you'll get back in return. Do not donate cash; your time will be sufficient.
Birthday Baby: You will put a lot into your personal and professional direction. You will be impulsive when it comes to getting things done. You will be hurt easily by criticism and will strive to do your best to avoid such encounters.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



ACROSS
1 Charity
5 Setting
10 Jolts
14 Violent melee
15 Leslie of "Gigi"
16 Toward shelter
17 Land unit
18 Anxiety
19 Third power
20 Best Actor, "Life Is Beautiful"
22 Best Actor, "The French Connection"
24 Understands
25 Negatives
26 Unattractive
29 Best Actress, "Room at the Top"
34 Separated
35 Gloomy effect
36 St. Petersburg river
37 D.C. VIP
38 Best Actor, "It Happened One Night"
39 Combine
40 H.S. dance
42 Sale caveat
43 Swiftly
45 Best Actress, "Dead Man Walking"
47 Flora
48 Joke
49 Verbal
50 Best Actor, "The King and I"
54 Best Actor, "Lilies of the Field"
58 Pelee spew
59 Poison
61 Eternal City
62 All tied up
63 Regretting
64 Mr. Redding
65 Lucy's husband
66 Affirmatives
67 Power unit

DOWN
1 Semite
2 Parasites on people
3 Dawn 'til noon
4 Best Actor, "In the Heat of the Night"
5 Meager
6 Celestial dog
7 Work unit
8 Snack
9 Complicate
10 Best Actress, "Women in Love"
11 Grad
12 Ms. McEntire
13 Observed
21 Yiddish money
23 Lifer
26 Simple locks
27 Met fare
28 Landed estate
29 Noted virologist
30 Woes
31 Staff again
32 Dislodge
33 Levies
35 El __, TX
38 Contraptions
41 Best Actress, "The Rose Tattoo"
43 Jai __
44 Best Actress, "Shakespeare In Love"
46 Bobbsey twin
47 Tines
49 Spout thoughts
50 Ran in the wash
51 Spout nonsense
52 Designer St. Laurent
53 Lecher
55 Jot
56 Radiate
57 Break
60 Greek letters

By Roger Jurgovan
Potomac, MD
3/25/02

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

S	H	I	E	S						B	R	E	S	T
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L	A	R	G	O					S	E	E	P	S	

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3/25/02

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

Do you have what it takes to be a model?

IF you've got good looks, a captivating personality and a dream to be a fashion icon, join the Meg and FWD Circle of 20 modeling workshop this summer.

Do actual print and ramp modeling! Learn to mix and match clothes, beauty and grooming tricks and how to develop your personality. Get in touch with the country's top modeling agencies.

All Meg and FWD Circle of 20 members will graduate with a real fashion show, with outstanding members becoming regular models for Meg and FWD magazines!

The workshop is open to male or female Filipino model wannabes, 13-22 years old, high school or college student and residing in Metro Manila.

Submit a certification of approval/clearance from school authorities stating your eligibility to join plus your photo with the official application form available for P100 at 18/F Strata 100 Building, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

Deadline for application is April 12 for batches 1 and 2, and May 10 for batches 3 and 4. Log on to www.ivegotstyle.net or call Maia or Francis at 631-2859 or 633-4785.

Fashion company honors young achievers

IT'S a celebration of youth power once again as Hang Ten Phils. gives recognition to the most outstanding high school graduates of Batch 2002 through "Perfect 10: A Tribute to Young Achievers."

Now on its second year of inspiring youth excellence, "Perfect 10" honors class valedictorians of the 10 largest public high schools in Metro Manila.

Based on the records of the Department of Education-National Capital Region (DE-NCR), this year's 10 most populated public high schools in Metro Manila are: Parañaque National High School, Caloocan High School, Commonwealth High School, Rizal High School in Pasig, Fort Bonifacio High School, Muntinlupa National High School, Pedro Diaz High School also in Muntinlupa, Marikina High School, Camarin High School in Caloocan City and Malabon National High School.

Hang Ten Phils. will award the 10 chosen class valedictorians on their commencement exercises or recognition day with glass-engraved Perfect 10 trophy and Perfect 10 gold medal. Plus, Hang Ten will give cash prizes and gift certificates to the recipients.

Through "Perfect 10," Hang Ten aspires to be "an instrument in making these academically brilliant students serve as paradigm to other youths all over the country."

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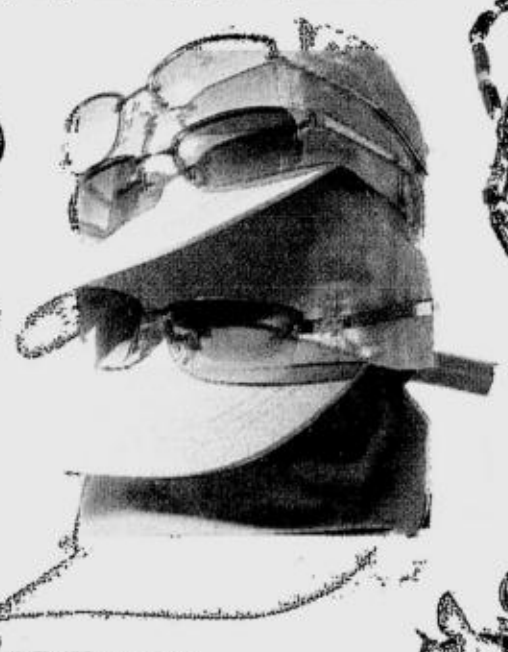
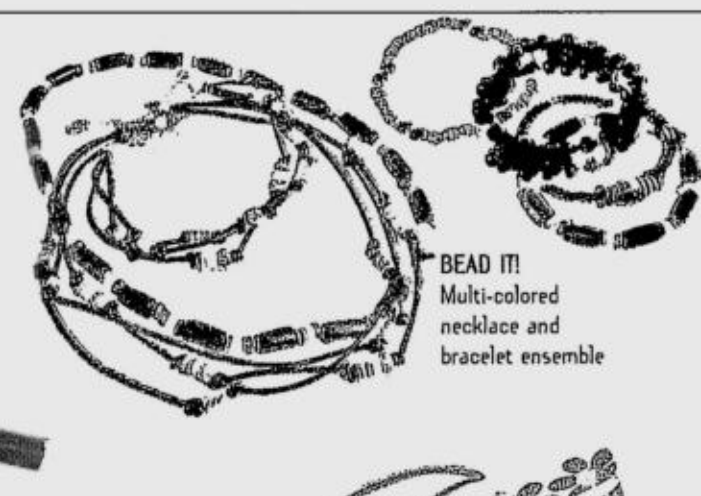
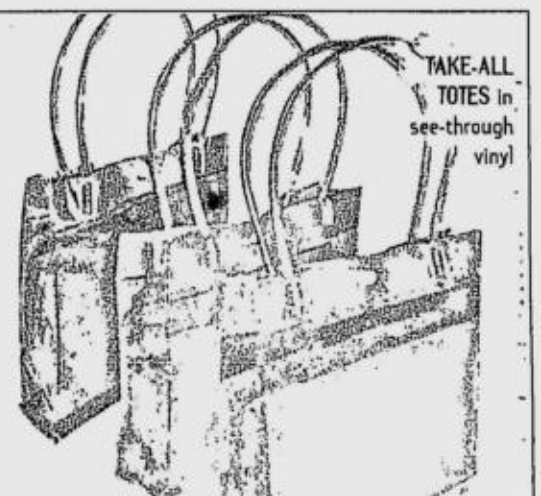


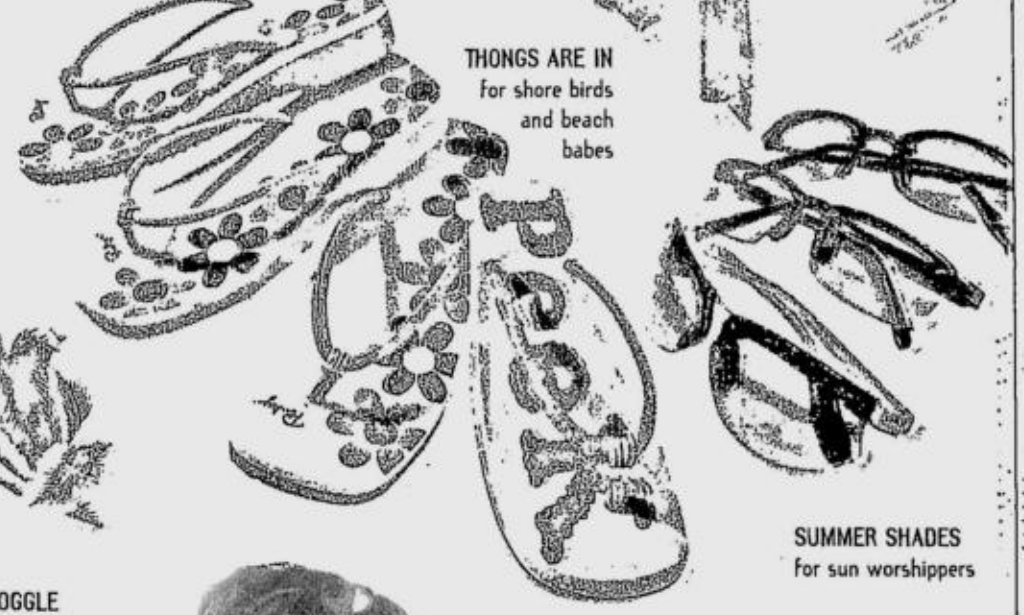
HATS OFF to sunshine days in summer caps and shades



BEAD IT! Multi-colored necklace and bracelet ensemble



TAKE-ALL TOTES in see-through vinyl



THONGS ARE IN for shore birds and beach babes

HAIR THINGS Clips, pony rings and such

SUMMER SHADES for sun worshippers

PACK 'EM IN waterproof canvas backpacks

SNORKEL GEAR for the dive and look set

GOGGLE OGLES See for yourself the many shades of summer

BREEZY FLOPPY Cloche hats with florals

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Shape up during the *school break*

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Working out to be fit and healthy is a sound investment and can do wonders

By Melissa Telan
2bU! Correspondent

YES, it's happy days again for students. No more classes, books or teachers' dirty looks—at least for the next two months or so. Many are looking forward to days of frolicking under the sun, jetting to some exotic place or just blissfully lounging around.

The next two to three months of sheer freedom are filled with endless possibilities, but you really should ask yourself one question: what do you want out of summer?

You may already have drawn up a list, but let me suggest one: shaping up. Working out to be fit and healthy is a sound investment and can do wonders for you. The long school break is an ideal time to achieve this goal. A better-shaped body will not only make you feel good, but also earn you a lot of admiration.

Shaping up isn't as difficult as it seems. All that's really needed is patience, perseverance and perhaps a little guide to help you.

Aim for a lifetime commitment. By making up your mind to change your body, you're one step closer to achieving your goal. Now what you need is a plan. If you think your body can still do better, then your current lifestyle is probably not working for you. You may need a total change of lifestyle, one that you can live with every day of your life. If you think that's too long, then you might as well give up now. Fitness is a lifetime commitment. Once you stop working at it, the benefits will also cease.

Ask yourself what you want to achieve. Do you simply want to feel healthier? Do you want to build muscles? Or do you want to shed some pounds? Planning for weight loss includes most goals for achieving a healthier body.

Know the basics. If you're planning to lose weight, you must know the basics. One pound is equal to 3,500 calories, give or take. To lose weight, you need to eat less and move around more to burn calories—as simple as that. Some people forget that changing one's body doesn't happen suddenly (you didn't gain all that weight overnight). A slow and steady pace of 1-2 pounds a week of weight loss is ideal.

Eat right. You need food for energy, but sometimes you end up consuming too much. If your goal is weight loss, then remember to eat less than you can burn off. This doesn't mean depriving yourself. Forget the quick fix offered by starvation diets. Such programs may help you for a while but once you're off them (and you'll certainly be sooner or later), the benefits will cease as well. What will work in the long run is always choosing the right kind of food—a lot of nutrients and few calories like vegetables, whole grains, fruits, lean meat and nonprocessed foodstuff. Work out a healthier diet that you can stick to but will also let you enjoy the pleasures of eating. Balance is the key.

Exercise regularly. Regular exercise and eating right go hand in hand. For best results, especially if your goal is weight loss, do both aerobic and resistance exercise. Aerobic exercise, such as walking, swimming, playing badminton and several other sports, helps burn fat efficiently. Resistance (or anaerobic) exercise, like weight lifting, raises the metabolism (or your ability to burn off fat quickly) by increasing your muscle mass.

Take note of the word "regular." Choose an exercise you can do for a long time. If you hate working out with other people, for instance, stay away from kickboxing classes and go for something solitary such as walking. Keeping an exercise logbook to record your itineraries may help you keep sight of your goal.

Don't expect results immediately. E-mail and text messaging have made people impatient. This is why most attempts to achieve a healthier body fail. Diet pills and infomercial products are popular because they promise quick results ("Lose 20 pounds in 20 days!"). The promises are all false. If there is really a safe product that would allow you to consume 12,000 calories, you would have heard about it by now. Despite advances in technology, only three things effect permanent weight loss: proper diet, regular exercise and time.

Staying fit is serious business, but worth doing. Conflicting suggestions on how to achieve a healthier body may confuse you, so it is best to trust your instincts and keep in mind how your body works. Be wary of products or methods promising quick results without your having to do anything other than spend money. Do what feels right.

E-mail the author at melissatelan@yahoo.com

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ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Make your own 'BREAD' this summer

The long school break is a good time to get the cash you need to buy what you want most

By Giles Ivan A. Aquino
2bU! Correspondent

DURING these difficult times, parents may not be as quick as before to indulge us. You may have to earn the money for that latest G4 model you have been obsessed with all this time. The long school break is a good time to try to get the cash you need to buy what you really want most.

Here are some jobs that may help you earn the extra money you need (data supplied by some students who got their on-the-job training in summers past):

Municipal hall assistant

Allowance/stipend/benefits: P50/day

Length: 1 and ½ months

Qualifications: You should be at least 15 years old and, of course, literate. If you are under 18, you need an authorization from your parents.

Requirements: Birth and baptismal certificates, and barangay clearance

Nature of work: It will depend on the person in charge or regular employees in the department where you are assigned. For instance, if you work in the office issuing police clearances, you will most likely input information using a typewriter and do fingerprinting. Running errands is a given in this kind of work.

Tips: If you enrol during the school year after the summer you worked, you can process your papers with the Department of Labor and Employment to get that extra P1,800.

Shift: 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Central procurement office, auditor

Allowance/stipend/benefits: P200 per day

Length: 320 hours

Qualifications: You should know Microsoft Excel and company-based software

Requirements: Letter of recommendation, résumé and application letter from the company

Nature of work: Gather critical daily

MAKE/ p.D3

zed™ Lose your head. Get our deadliest cuts from March 27 to April 1. Download them now and give your cell phone some edge.

Top ten logos:
LOGO DRIVE 1 · LOGO F3 2 · LOGO KABAB1 3 · LOGO POLAR1 4 · LOGO POPPER1 5
LOGO PUPPY2 6 · LOGO PUTT1 7 · LOGO SUNSMILE 8 · This side up. LOGO THISSIDEUP 9 · LOGO ROO1 10

New logos:
LOGO 3DOLPHINS · LOGO BASEBALL · LOGO BEACHVIEW · LOGO BOATING · LOGO DUCKSHARK
LOGO MIRIENDA · LOGO TREX · LOGO SUNBATHE2 · LOGO SUNBATHE3 · SUNSET BEACH LOGO SUNSET

New picture messages:
You're mine tonight PIC URMINE · THIS IS... LIFE PIC LIFE1 · PIC LOST2 · PIC SATURN · I LOVE YOU! PIC 2OFUS
I Will Be Here PIC BEHERE · PIC LASING · Help me out! PIC MAZE · OK FINE!! PIC OKFINE · Party Time PIC PARTYTIME2

New ring tones:

Like A Rose	A1	TONE LIKEAROSE
One More Try	A1	TONE 1MORETRY
Thank You	A1	TONE THANKU
The Things We Never Did	A1	TONE THETHINGS
Tomorrow	A1	TONE TOMORROW
Bulag, Pipi At Bingi	Freddie Aguilar	TONE BULAGPIPI
Araw-Araw, Gabi-Gabi	Didith Reyes	TONE ARAWARAW
Superstar Ng Buhay Ko	Cinderella	TONE SUPERSTAR
Mr. DJ	Sharon Cuneta	TONE MRDJ
Ikaw Lamang	Zsa Zsa Padilla	TONE IKAWLAMANG

Top ten ring tones:

1	Incomplete	Sisqo	TONE INCOMPLETE
2	Horny		TONE HORNY
3	Michelle	Beatles	TONE MICHELLE
4	Lambada		TONE LAMBADA
5	Butterfly		TONE BUTTERFLY
6	Electric Typewriter	zed	TONE TYPEWRITER
7	Farewell To You My friends	Raymond Lauchengco	TONE FAREWELL
8	Pagdating Ng Panahon	Aiza Seguerra	TONE PAGDATING
9	Saranggola Ni Pepe	Celeste Legaspi	TONE SARANGGOLA
10	Tell Me	Side A	TONE TELLME

How to get a logo, picture message or ring tone:
1 Type in KEYWORD. Ex. LOGO BOATING, PIC URMINE or TONE MRDJ
2 Send to 288.
3 Save upon receiving logo, picture message, or ring tone.

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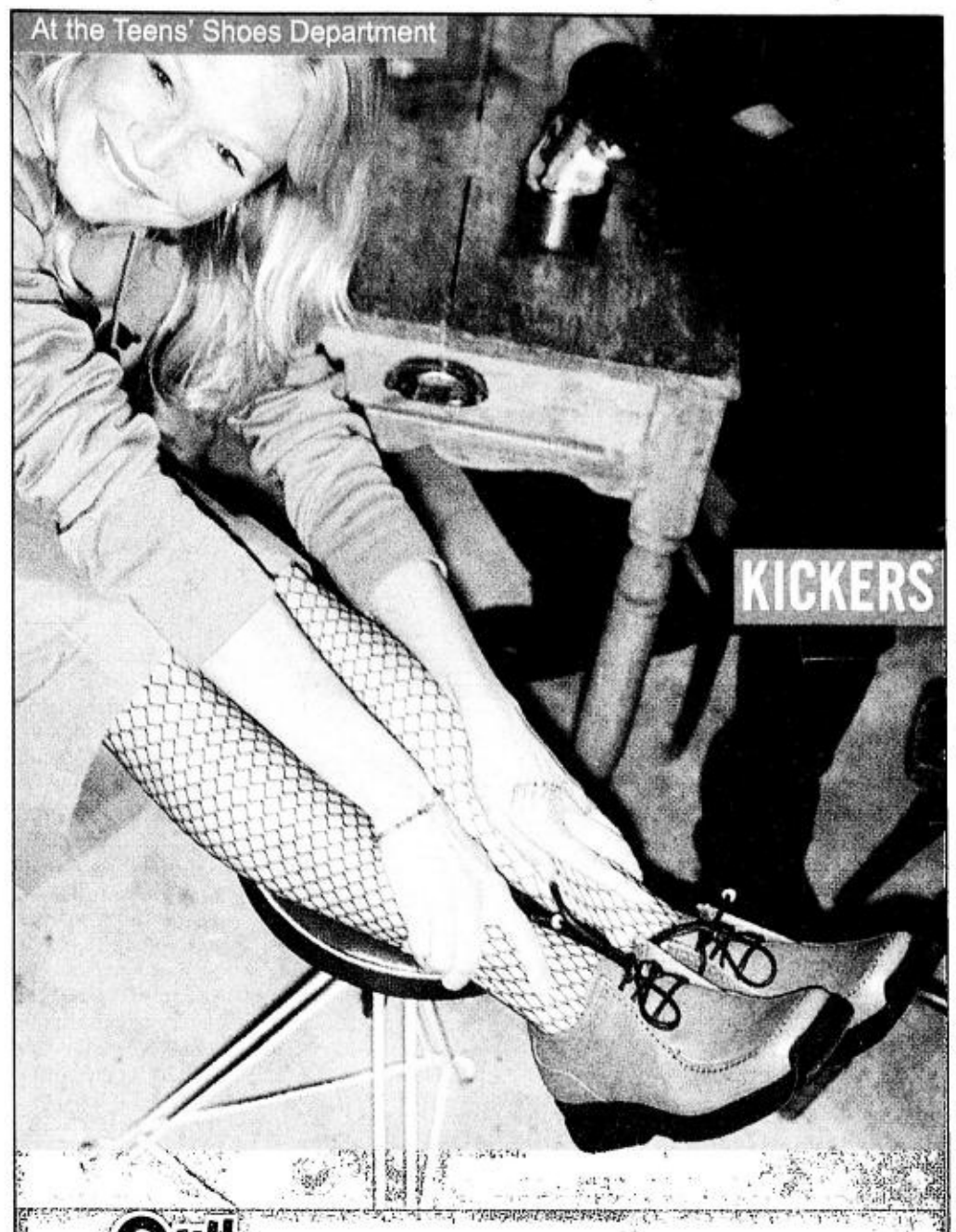

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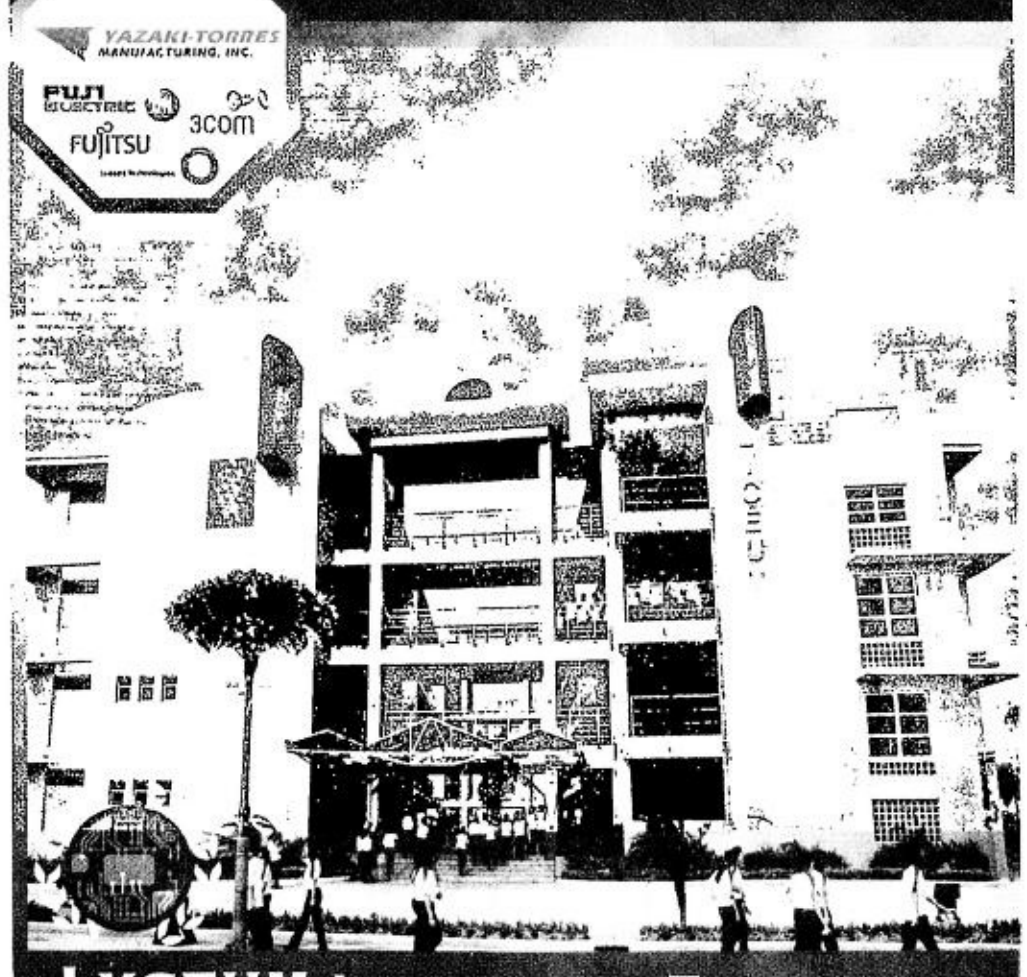

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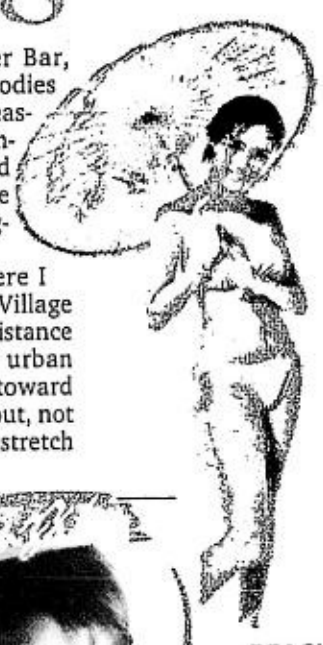
GLOBAL accessory of Jay Tugas and Manolo Llamas

B1 and B2. Bikini babes Giselle Sityar and Ria Francisco

BREATHE O2. Derek Ramsey and Mary Kelly

Global grooves on **Boracay***'s shores*



FROM BAZZURA to Beachcomber Bar, Boracay sizzled with bodacious bodies all out for the beach parade. In peasant tops, bikini separates and floral ensembles, the beach brigade bounced from one party venue to the next, the sandy shores of Bora becoming the longest runway this side of summer.

I would walk from Station 3, where I stayed at **Edd Fuentes**' fab, fab Sun Village Resort—away from it all, the perfect distance away from the warm natives to the urban dwellers in Station 1. Plus the walk toward the party spots gave me a great work out, not to mention a wide view of the whole stretch of the finest white sand this part of the world.

Tim Yap

BEACH BUM. Celine Lopez in the flesh

PHOTOS: TIM YAP

"Everybody is in a bikini nowadays, I hardly saw anyone in a one piece bathing suit," said a sexy observer while sipping her San Miguel Beer. "And couples holding hands all over—girls and guys, guys and guys—the world has really evolved," waxed a resort owner about the evolution of this generation.

With Wherelse and Globe—those "?" and "G" signs all over the island (and the whole Philippines—Subic, Baguio, Puerto Galera, etc.), the revelry would extend the whole summer season, party hopping across musical genres, cross cultural boundaries and diverse fashion statements.

G spots

Where's the G? Thursday I arrived to groove with the New York sound of Dee-Lite's Supa **DJ Dimitry**, popular for making us dance to the tune of "Groove is in the Heart." Ab fab! Excitement filled the bohemian air as everyone was eager to experience the Dimitry sound. One too many power shortages (a recurring issue among Bora-philes nowadays) after, partyphiles stayed on, with DJ Dimitry raising his arms.

"People power!" he exclaimed as the revelers screamed his name. You must give it to him, this DJ. If it were somebody else with a superfluous ego, he would have walked out of his set, disappointed with Third World gadgetry. But he persisted and waited for the volume to resume, and it was definitely worth the wait. (He even played for free at Bazzura during Black Saturday.)

At the party's peak, fireworks perked up the Boracay sky as the crowd's electricity reached fever pitch. On the other side of the fence at Hey Jude!, "Manomission," that pioneering beach gig that has become a tradition for a lot of scenesters and NBK loyalist supporters held their fort, with DJs **Manolet Dario**, **David Jacob**, **Adrian Cuenca** and more taking the reins.

BOHEMIAN BABE. Kaz Castillo exudes sassy style.

When I arrived, everyone was seated on the beachfront. The setup was chill. Partyphiles were just relishing the vibe, bonding with friends, reflecting on their lives as they looked at the stars and savor the smoothness of the Boracay sand. Some even waited for the sunrise, leaving only when the natives came and said, "*Uyy, ang lakas ng tama nila, o!*" Bummer.

Sunup to sundown

Sunset sessions were also dominated by Mano's group, with a parade of who was beautiful on the island. The whole party parade also became a showdown of merchandise giveaways. Rustan's U gave out great "goodies"—toy guns and toy "cokes" (the powdered ones you sip, not snort, mind you) that were met with amused guffaws while Hawaiian Tropic gave out free massages and sun creams. Others soaked themselves in SMB—for that perfect tan sunup to sundown.

Lee jeans gave out shirts, caps and beach bags while Globe gave out beach bandannas and logo bags, not to mention P100 G (gift) certificates that you can use in top venues scattered around the island.

Friday I opted to have a quiet night, preferring a simple seafood dinner at Fridays with **Butch** and **Cris Albert** of Fila. As I walked back, I was surprised to see people partying still—"On Good Friday?" someone remarked. But, hey, this is party town—from "Hi! Society" to "high society," Boracay was brimming with life, even on days you would not expect it to be.

Saturday I sauntered to Summer Place, where reggae groove and percussion beats reigned. It was really refreshing to hear a different kind of music—music fit for the island—and seeing scenesters totally in "island fever" mode. "I've been hopping from trance, to house and back—it's nice to be here," said fun photog and Cebu society maven **Amanda Luym** as Indio I belted out Beatles and Bob Marley.

Boracay season

Later, the energy shifted to R&B, with **DJ Kimosave** spinning "raise the roof" tunes as the crowd (majority of the people that were still in Bora) did the grind as they clenched their beer bottles. I even spotted a native partyphile atop a tree, dancing his heart out while doing a balancing act—gives "party hardy" a different definition.

Talking about party hardy promoters, it would be nice if Boracay officials came out with an official "season"—with a definite opening and closing (weeks before the peak and weeks after non-peak), thereby extending the local and foreign tourist arrivals. Plus they can coordinate with the promoters and sponsors to come up with a more solid beach season, something Ibiza and other destinations do to keep their island healthy. And their electricity situation, too.

Easter Sunday and we were renewed partyphiles in white—others heading back to reality city, others opting to stay and indulge themselves at the Mandala Spa. After that, they were ready once more for a dip, a sip and a flash in the sun.

Hand me the sunscreen, baby!

PEER PLEASURE. Mike Huang, Mikey Garcia, Denise Albert, Anna Palabyab and Raymond Rufino

THE HUNKS! Brad Turvey, Mark Reyes, Geoff Briz, Marc Nelson and Leo Sanchez

GLOBE gals Aileen Averion, Buda Concio, Gladys Castillo and John Ong

WHO LET THE DOGS OUT? DJ Mischief, Thomas and Shaan Bermudez at Summer Place

"MANOMISSION." Manolet Dario, Anna Cruz with baby Tamara

TOP MAN. Jay Tengco and Joan Pineda

LEE lady guerrilla at Beachcomber

LIFT IT UP. Mon Jose outside the court

U DA MAN. Paolo Cabalfin loves the sunset.

SANDY DUDE. A sun-bathing Iñigo Elizalde

BORA BOHEME. Datu Yap in island groove

"*KAMI na!*" says Macky Lim

CURLY SHELL. G-spotted gal on the beach

LUCKY STRIPE. Jay Tugas and Robby Afzelius

FASHIONISTA on the loose

She is troubled by how her parents deal with her irresponsible brother

DEAR Sep and Caloy,

I am the second child in our family. The eldest is my brother who has dropped out of school and is now a bum. I know my father expects my brother to take over the family business in the future, but he has to finish his studies. But since he's not in school, I could feel the pressure on me to take on the responsibilities of my elder brother. I am all right with that, because my parents have explained how things work to me. But I know that the moment my elder brother resumes his studies, my parents would immediately, without a doubt, make him the "golden child" of the family again.

I am jealous but I am more annoyed because the way I see it, my parents give in to the whims of my irresponsible brother instead of forcing him to be responsible. Do you think it would be okay for them to know what I feel and think? I don't want to hurt them, but this is too much.

LEIGH

Carlos Garchitorena & September Mahino

By all means, tell your parents what you think! Like what you've said, it isn't like you're going to drop the responsibilities that have been passed on to you. Besides, since you've been filling your elder brother's shoes lately, I think you've gained the right to give your parents a piece of advice on how to deal with your brother. I, too, am a second child and I also get fed up with the responsible-child stereotype that people give to firstborns. When some firstborns mess up the things that they are supposed to do, it's the second-born kids who pick up after them. So go ahead and talk to your parents. Just think first how you are going to approach them. Better yet, be honest to yourself about what your intentions are so you will know more about what you're going to say and how you're going to say it. And be careful with your choice of words, so no one's feelings will get hurt.

SEP

Don't look now, Leigh, but you're exhibiting a classic example of *egotiata giganta*, which may impede your ability to walk through doorways and share tiny rooms with several people.

It should be a given in any particular family that not all children are raised equal. Maybe your brother was mistakenly weaned on Equal, and, unbeknown to you, fights crime at night with his über-Equal powers. I mean, look at Bruce Wayne. What does he do in the daytime? Nothing. He's a bum. And although Superman prevented California's sinking into the blue Pacific, Clark Kent never got a story, except maybe some undercover lingerie exposés.

But seriously, parenting must be a case-to-nut-case interplay of chance and circumstance. The values imparted by parents on particular offsprings may have direct correlation to several things at particular moments in your parents' parenting history, circumstances that are above your ability to reason out. Your and your brother's lives, personalities and idiosyncrasies could be virtual enactments of your parents' desires, wishes and pipe dreams while you were being raised. Have you thought about that?

Maybe all the mojo in the family was transmitted to your brother, and though he can't get a diploma to save his life, guess who can sit at a bar licking his eyebrows and not pay for a single drink the whole night?

Point is, Leigh, we each have our special talents. And guess what, we (read: you) also have weaknesses in character that would anger the *fuhrer*, make him shake his head in disgust and say, *Mein Gott! Glückliche Reise! Nicht wahr?* So let's try to channel this anger and frustration, and start looking at the brighter side of life, shall we? After all, Jesus just rose from the dead, and He must be dealing with a killer hangover right now, so let's try not to bug Him with the small stuff. And that goes the same for all of the religious, as well as to the heathens like me.

CARLOS

Make your own 'BREAD' this summer

From page D1

information such as past due items, commitments from clients, inventory of supplies, etc.; generate and print weekly graph reports on data gathered to help define the progress of the company. The weekly reports can serve as bases for effecting cost cutting measures.

Tips: You must be able to work overtime if necessary, especially if the report is due the next day.

Shift: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Magazine, PR assistant

Allowance/stipend/benefits: Transportation and food allowance

Length: 120 hours

Qualifications: Good public relations skills

Requirements: Résumé and recommendation

Nature of Work: Call or fax boutiques and shops for things that models will wear during shoots for fashion spreads; interview prominent people, pop icons, leading campus sports figures, among others; help choose clothes for fashion pictorial; attend press conferences; get to do a little of the layout work and contribute ideas.

Tips: Make the most out of it. You should be confident to be able to deal with different people.

Hotel and Restaurant Management training

Allowance/stipend/benefits: P70 per day

Qualifications: Must be a hotel and restaurant management student.

Requirements: Resume and recommendation letter

Nature of Work: If assigned in the dining area, you will most likely check table linens; make sure the tables are in the right places and have the things customers will need; spray air-freshener and turn on the air-conditioner 20 minutes before the place opens. If assigned at the Reception Desk, you can be expected to check reservations. An assignment in the bar will mean assisting in mixing drinks.

Attire: Black slacks, white long-sleeved shirt, bow tie, black shoes and possibly apron

Tips: You should have patience.

Shifts: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; 10 a.m.-11 p.m. or a minimum of at least four hours a day

Customer service

Allowance/stipend/benefits: P250

Qualifications: Proficient in English grammar, use of e-mail service and computer

Requirements: Recommendation letter, résumé and application from the company itself

Nature of work: Answer inquiries of customers, usually through e-mail. You may have to answer some 170 inquiries in eight hours.

Tips: The job could be monotonous at times so you should be patient. Good interpersonal skills are needed so you could easily refer inquiries to others.

Attire: Mondays through Thursdays—long sleeves, slacks and leather shoes; Friday—jeans, possibly shirt without collar, and rubber shoes.

Shift: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. You could work for five days a week and have a choice of the days you want to work, e.g. even Saturday or Sunday.

Technical support

Allowance/stipend/benefits: P50

Qualifications: Knows PC troubleshooting.

Requirements: Résumé, interview and written examination

Nature of work: Attend to error reports for the day, which are usually nonbootable hard drive or inability to log on to a network; occasionally help encode data and monitor loads on every network routers

Attire: Smart casual

Tip: Have a checklist of errors to make troubleshooting easier. Know how to deal with people. You should know the hardware specifications of the company PCs to be able to fix the problem.

Fast-food crew

Allowance/stipend/benefits: P25 per hour; closing hour is 10 p.m. Exceeding hour is P1.

Qualifications: Pleasing personality

Requirements: Medical certificate, police or NBI clearance, SSS ID, tax information number from the Bureau of Internal Revenue

Nature of work: It will depend on the station. At the grill station you may have to check such things as patties, ladle, mini ref, etc., but you are more prone to burns. Spaghetti station: Be able to cook spaghetti according the fast-food's standards. Cashier: Be able to handle customers and be careful in handling money.

Attire: Some companies provide uniform for free that should be returned after use. Others require you to buy your uniform from them.

Working days: Six days a week. You get twice your pay on the seventh day if you are asked to work.

Tips: Clumsiness is a big no-no. You should be organized as much as possible.

Shifting: Opening—6 a.m.-1 p.m.; midshift—1-6 p.m.; closing—6-10 p.m.

MBA production assistant

Length: 180 hours

Qualifications: Preferably a mass communications student; able to work under pressure

Requirements: 150-word essay on why you should be hired as a trainee.

Nature of work: Prepare score sheets for the tallying committee. Give copies of the script to everyone who should get it, such as the technical director, graphics engineer, overall director. You must know where to find coaches and players in case sideline interviews have to be conducted.

Attire: Casual workwear. Come as you may. Come in your most comfortable clothes.

Tips: The players could be really rowdy so you should know how to handle their pranks.

Working Hours: 7 a.m.-9 p.m.

Information system usage management network in a telecommunications company

Allowance/stipend/benefits: Food allowance

Qualifications: A familiarity with in-house equipment

Requirements: Résumé

Nature of work: Receives magnetic tapes where provincial calls are recorded; tally calls from the magnetic tape and log-in sheets.

Attire: Smart casual

Tip: Know how to handle a computer and the in-house system used.

Shift: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Quantity surveyors and construction cost consultant

Allowance/stipend/benefits: P150

Qualifications: Should be a civil engineering student and must pass a written exam

Requirements: Résumé, exam and interview

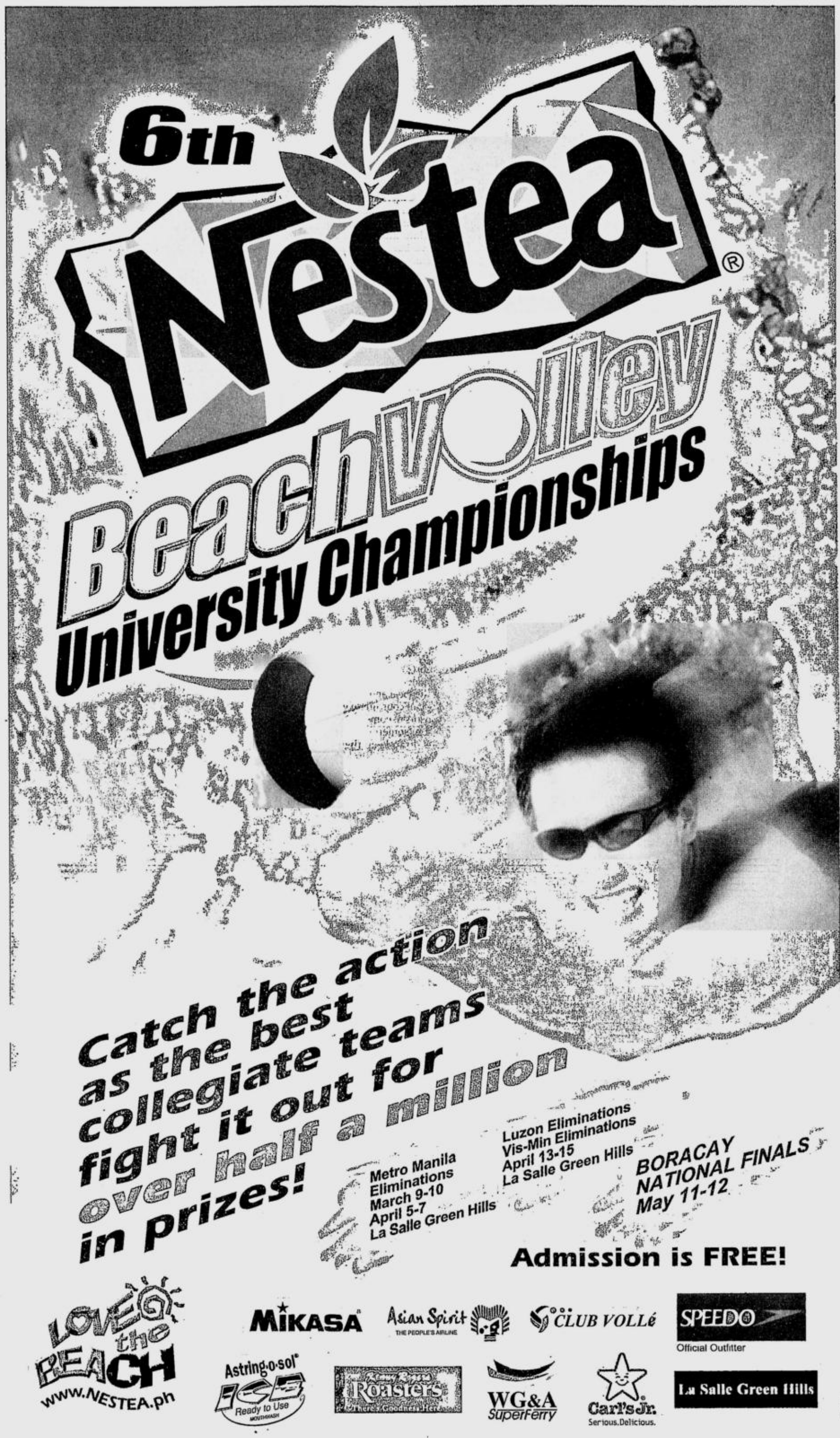
Nature of work: Estimate quantities of construction or raw materials needed for a specific project; do a cost planning on construction materials; visit some project sites

Attire: With tie

Tips: Value the training and enhance your skills.

Shift: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

E-mail the author at giaquino@edsamail.com.ph



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LIFESTYLE

The beach isn't the only fun place this summer

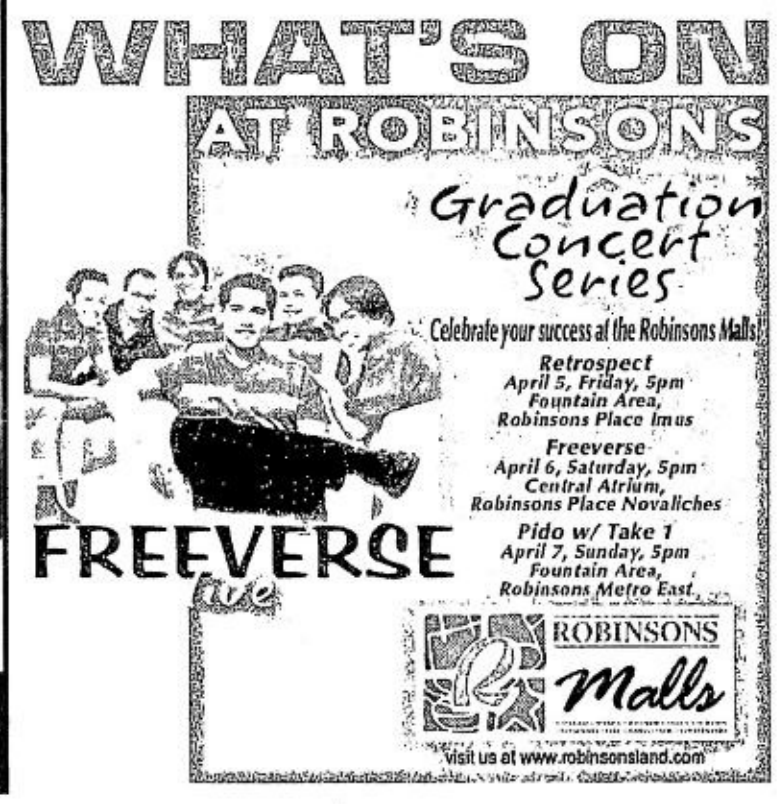
ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

By Pam Pastor

THEY prance around the beach wearing the tiniest of swimsuits. They hop on jet skis and roar off into the waves. They sun themselves and end up with perfect glowing tans. They are the blessed ones.

THE BEACH/ p.E2

Being stuck at home doesn't necessarily mean being slaves to the heat



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WEBSITE OF THE WEEK

Where **you** can surf for competitive **jobs**

Jobmarketonline.com

By Gabriel H. Mercado
2bU! Correspondent

IT used to be that when looking for a job, picking up a newspaper was a no-brainer. With the Web, it's a different story altogether.

Jobmarketonline.com is Inq7.net's very own venture into the highly competitive job websites market. At first impression, the site has a rather long but at least easily remembered domain name. It's probably be a good idea to pick up jobSmarketonline.com (with an s) and point it to the site, just to "cover all the bases," so to speak. It just happens to be available (I checked).

The site loads fast and easy, and a two-form search box asking for either position or company greets you. I always like sites that get to the point quickly, keeping the extraneous stuff to a minimum. The index or first page is a one-banner, two-pane affair with clearly labeled features and is well laid-out.

There is also advanced search, which allows you to look for jobs by industry, location, educational attainment, years of study, work experience and gender. Also there is a short list of Hot 6 Hiring companies. One click and it'll provide complete info of all jobs available within a listed company.

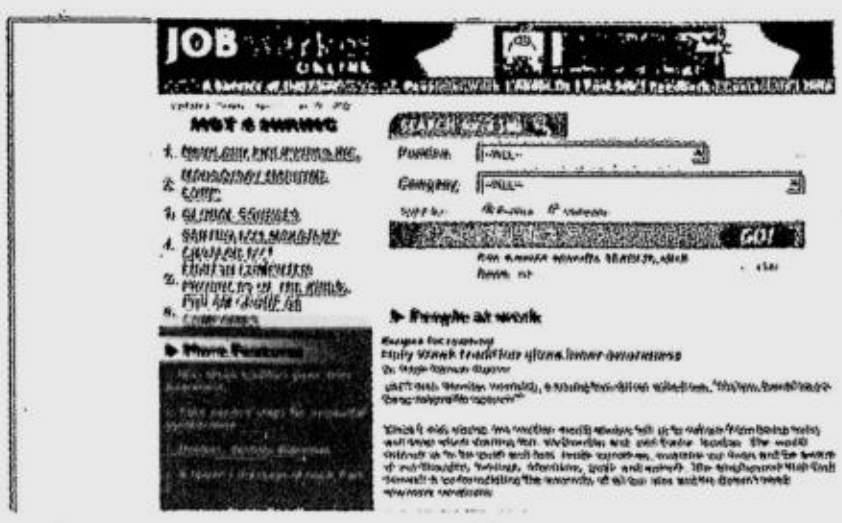
Résumé Reserve

Resume Reserve is a basic way of providing details about yourself via the site in order to have prospective companies check your qualifications. Be prepared to answer a four-part form asking details related to personal information, educational attainment, work experience and career preferences.

Studies show that most "surfers" dislike forms, but there is no site where a form is more necessary and important than one that might give you a job. Before you start, keep some basic facts handy, like the date you graduated or when you quit your previous job(s).

Strangely enough, an e-mail address is not a required field. In a way that is good, as it might actually lessen the tons of spam I receive daily.

The site promises that your résumé will be available for six months but unfortunately, there is no way to go back and change it. Once you've approved the info you just filled out, that's pretty much it.



There is also no confidentiality policy or promise that your info will not be given away to those other than interested companies. Frankly, websites are so notorious for abusing this that this is often taken for granted, but even so, it would be nice to see one.

SMS

The SMS feature is a three-step process where sending "inq7 jobs" to 211 (Smart) or 2333 (Globe) can get you a list of keywords representing industry, and sending the same plus keyword will get you jobs available per chosen category and finally the details of the job that you like.

Finding jobs via SMS is a positive step and is easy enough to understand, but I'm left wondering how practical can it be to read important details via a cell phone, even if you have the largest screen in the market. Also, the next logical step once you find an interesting job still entails either a visit to a PC and/or the Web, which may negate the process.

Regardless, doing things via SMS is still a worthwhile thing to do, especially given such a large market. However, there is one thing that Jobmarketonline SMS should be doing but is not, which is the next feature.

Jobs Alert

Jobs Alert is a great way to receive qualified openings via e-mail. It allows you to choose details such as position, industry, location and others. The service promises to send me a weekly updated e-mail.

After signing up I was supposed to receive a confirmation e-mail with login name and password details so I can log in and change my info in the future, but it might not be automated as an hour later I didn't receive any so I didn't get to try it.

Again, adding this to SMS would make Jobs Alert much more useful. Also, it would be nice to add the confirmation email process to the Résumé Reserve feature to allow future modifications. In fact, I'll go a step further and suggest that while signing up at Résumé Reserve, the site should require an e-mail address and place a yes/no button asking applicants if they want to join Jobs Alert as well. This will make applicants aware of the service as well as ensure continuing communication between applicants and the site.

Content

The site also features job-related info, such as the latest exam results for Upcat, criminology, physicians and others.

But where the site really shines is in the links to Inquirer's People at Work, which recently featured an immensely enjoyable reprinting of John Gokongwei's speech to the Ateneo 2002 graduating class, and a particularly moving piece by Moje-Ramos Aquino.

I admit I spent most of my time at this portion of the site; which probably goes to show that despite the Net's high-tech reputation, it's still content that makes the difference.

Conclusion

With its connection to Inq7.net and, of course, the Inquirer, Jobmarketonline is still a site that shouldn't be missed when looking for a job. The site is simple to navigate, and easy to comprehend. It's possible to sign up, find a job and apply within 30 minutes or so.

E-mail the author at gary@exchange.ph

'Halo-halong' versions and 'halo-halong sarap'

Keeping cool during this season usually means a bowl or a glass of 'halo-halo'

By Giles Ivan A. Aquino
2bU! Correspondent

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

IN MY FAMILY, we don't get together only for gift-giving. At this time of year, my *lola's halo-halo* often brings us together.

Halo-halo has defined the Philippines' hot and dry season. Keeping cool during this season usually means eating a bowl or a glass of *halo-halo*.

Recently, my brothers, aunt, mom and I decided to try four versions of *halo-halo* in one day (I tried another the next day). Here's what you can expect of your favorite *halo-halo* in these places.

Sandosenang Halo, Landmark

Regular *halo-halo*, P35

Everything that makes a perfect *halo-halo* is displayed on their glass racks. It took them longer to give me my change than to serve my *halo-halo*. The regular version has *langka*, *gulaman*, banana, *munggo* beans, *sago*, *macapuno*, garbanzos, *pinipig*, *nata de coco*, with lots of milk. Although the ice was not finely crushed, the taste was just right—not too sweet, not too bland. If you like a slice of *leche flan*, *matamis na ube* and a scoop of ice cream, you pay extra.

Rating: 4 spoons

Via Mare

Halo-halo, P58

Located on the third floor of Landmark, Via Mare offers only one kind: "a mélange of sweetened fruits, *yams* and egg custard with milk and crushed ice (with ice cream, add P28)." *Leche flan* and *kaong* (which is like *nata de coco* and *macapuno* combined) were added to this *halo-halo* version. Although they tasted odd, they were still good additions.

Milk and sugar were served in separate containers, allowing you add both according to your taste. I hardly savored the milk despite the amount I poured, probably because they used nonfat. I drank my *halo-halo* till the last drop. The ice was finely crushed.

But this *halo-halo* was not worth all the waiting I had to do before and after it was served. Also, with the P5 service charge, you actually pay P63 for your *halo-halo*.

Rating: 3 spoons

Icebergs

Super *halo-halo*, P66

Icebergs, which had a branch in Greenhills, was part of my high-school memories. The place, which has branches on Jupiter Street and Glorietta 4 in Makati City, gives you four choices for the same price—super *halo-halo* that I chose, super *buco*, super *mais* and *buco* with *mais*.

The one I ordered had a picture above the counter that showed two scoops of ice cream, one pink for strawberry, I guessed, and the other violet, no doubt *ube*. There was a slice of peach between the scoops.

The *halo-halo* was served in a glass bowl that made it less messy to eat. Corn flakes took the place of *pinipig* but the usual ingredients were missing. It only had corn, *gulaman*, *langka*, banana and *buco*. One more thing: although I ordered *halo-halo*, what I got tasted more like *mais con hielo*. I could not finish my order.

Rating: 3.5 spoons

The Yum Yum Tree

Regular *halo-halo*, P60

Almost a quarter of the glass was filled with *garbanzos*. Instead of *matamis na ube*, they put a scoop of *ube*-flavored ice cream. I was unable to determine how much I paid for service charge, but a *halo-halo* treat in this restaurant would definitely cost you more than the price quoted in the menu.

Rating: 3 spoons

Chowking

Regular *halo-halo*, P50

I had this on Easter Sunday. Chowking's *halo-halo* is topped with a scoop of *ube*-flavored ice cream. *Sago*, *leche flan*, *saging*, *gulaman*, *ube*, *monggo*, garbanzos, *pinipig*, *nata de coco* and *macapuno* made up Chowking's regular *halo-halo*. Without the ice cream on top, this version came close to my *lola's halo-halo*.

Rating: 5 spoons

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Summer getaway guide

Five easy steps to planning a low-cost yet high-fun, student-friendly summer vacation

By Celeste Gomez
2bU! Correspondent

IMAGINE this. Two months of no school, 60 days of bumming around, 1,440 hours of free time to spare. Don't tell me you're willing to spend your most-awaited summer break by simply watching TV in the morning, malling in the afternoon and bar-hopping at night. Please! Give these gimmicks a break! Round up your *barkada* and escape from your old boring routine lifestyle. Psyche up yourself for some fun-filled adventure with these five steps to planning your *barkada*'s summer getaway!

Step 1: Have a game plan.

Who: Get an estimate of how many of your friends or family are going to join your summer escapade. Most vacation packages give huge discounts for groups. Remember, the more, the merrier... and cheaper.

For a more efficient and stress-free summer getaway hunt, divide responsibilities with your *amigos* and *amigas*. Get people to take charge of accommodations, transportation, food, recreation and the like.

What: Do you prefer a fast-paced adventure type of outing or simply a laid-back kind of weekend getaway? Knowing the kind of summer vacation you want before hunting for tour packages makes the search easier.

Where: Want to spend your summer hiking in the cool mountains of Baguio and Sagada, or would you rather just lie down and sunbathe in the warm beaches of Boracay and Puerto Galera? With 7,100 islands, there are just countless places you can explore. Deciding on the location of your trip can help you narrow your search for group packages. With that, you have extra time to really get into the details and hunt for the cheapest and the best!

When: Most of the affordable and practical packages are those that are for three days/two nights or four days/three nights. Usually these include breakfast accommodations and transfers.

Step 2: Be your own travel agent

Don't be fooled! If agencies say they can give you the best price, there's always something cheaper! Travel agencies are around because they do get something from those trips that they help arrange. Being your own travel agent can help you save an average of around P500 per person (that's already shopping money!).

Be more resourceful. It pays to do your own research—and it's not that hard, too. Check out the following websites and contact numbers where you can get rates direct from the source without any extra agency fees.

www.lakbay.net.ph—This site offers special promo rates and fares and affordable packages at no extra cost. Online booking for both your accommodation and transportation makes everything so easy. It's a one-stop travel shop.

Buy your transportation tickets straight from their office to avoid all of the other unnecessary extra charges. Some airlines even offer student discounts (around 20-percent off) as long as you have a school ID.

Asian Spirit—tel. 851-8888 or 514-4310 to 12

Cebu Pacific—tel. 636-4938 or visit www.cebupacific.com

Air Philippines—tel. 855-9000 or e-mail reservations@airphilippines.com

WG&A Superferry—tel. 528-7100 or visit www.wgasuperferry.com

Victory Liner—tel. 921-32-96 (Kamias) or 727-4688 (Cubao)

Baliwag Transit—tel. 364-0778

Step 3: Go easy on food and fun.

Let's say you've got the best summer getaway package you can find, saving you a whole bunch of shopping money. Don't ruin it by splurging on hotel food and all of those P2,000 per hour water sports. It's not worth it. Unless you're a multimillionaire, it's a very impractical thing to do. Hotel food is priced almost 100-percent more than those you can buy at nearby restaurants. Explore different places and discover cheap native and exotic foods.

For those who are really tight on their budget, here are some food and fun tips to maximum summer satisfaction:

- Instead of having breakfast and lunch, take brunches.
- Eat at your vacation spot's famous restaurants that offer reasonably priced home-cooked meals like Honey Bee at Boracay's *talipapa*. You'll only spend an average of P300++ for 4 people.
- Bring your own munchies and snacks! Don't forget those ever-reliable easy-to-open Vienna sausages and pork and beans. Chips, cookies, candies, cup noodles and tetra-pack juices are very handy and yummy, too.
- Opt for the same fun yet less expensive activities. Instead of diving, go snorkeling. Drop the jet ski and get the kayak instead.

Step 4: Pack light.

- Remember this: you are going to a summer vacation, not a fashion show! Bring only clothes and accessories that you need. Extras mean just one or two shirts or shorts, not a whole wardrobe!
- Wash-and-wear clothes are a must. Bring those that are wrinkle-free and do not need ironing.
- Bring comfortable clothes. Leave those chiffons and frou-frous. Don't let fashion overpower comfort. You can be fashionable *and* comfortable by sticking to simple summer wear.
- Backpack is the way to travel. Unless you plan to stay for a month, your huge LV and coach luggage shall stay inside your closet, thank you!
- Make a list of the must-haves for the kind of vacation you're going to. Camera, film, sunblock, antimosquito lotion and a first-aid kit must never be left behind. And never forget the toiletries (toothpaste to be exact).

Step 5: Keep your money safe.

Don't bring too much cash. Some thieves are targeting travelers because they know they carry around more cash than what is needed. Have only enough and a few hundred bucks for extra expenses. It's a good thing to put the rest of your money in an ATM card for emergency purposes. It is also a great plus if you are able to bring a credit card, just in case—but resist the temptation!

Have a small sling bag you can wear around your body so that your money will always be within reach and not bulky enough to be uncomfortable. Having a bulky shoulder bag is more attractive to pickpockets, and not so travel-friendly.

The beach isn't the only fun place this summer

From page E1

While most of us are stuck at home battling the heat, sweat dripping from our tortured bodies while the only sand within reach is in the kitty litter box, a small part of the population makes the beaches its territory, their toes worshipped by the crashing waves. Unfair, huh?

We can't let them win. No, siree.

We can show them that being stuck at home doesn't necessarily mean being slaves to the heat.

Here are some party ideas to help keep you cool while the sun is at its fiercest and you're a gazillion miles away from the nearest beach.

Water war. Call all your friends who have been complaining about the excessive heat. Tell them to bring extra clothes—plenty of extra clothes and towels. Prepare water guns (this is a case where size does matter—the bigger the better), your younger bro's inflatable pool (if you don't have it, buy one—it's a worthy summer investment), garden hose, sprinklers if you have them, water balloons, ice cubes, etc. Be creative.

Have a major water fight with your friends. You may form teams or just go on a crazy rampage and try to get everyone wet. If they want to wear bathing suits, that's fine. If they want to be fully clothed, that's fine, too. If you ask me, it's more thrilling to drench someone dressed impeccably. A reminder: do this outside the house—and do not go in dripping wet. The mud tracks would surely drive your mom crazy. Only a few things are worse than being grounded in the summer.

Movie marathon. Rent a bunch of movies. Choosing the movies is the essential step here. Make sure you pick flicks that would give you the illusion of coldness—"Cutting Edge," "Mystery, Alaska," "The Mighty Ducks," "Alive," "Vertical Limit," "A Long Kiss Goodnight," heck, even "Jack Frost." Prepare refreshments—popcorn, nachos, you choose. Don't forget the popsicles for experience enhancement.

Sundae splurge. Visit the nearest refreshingly cool supermarket and grab ice cream from their freezers. Then pile your cart high with goodies that can be used to make sundaes. Get the traditional chocolate syrup, strawberry syrup, nuts, cherries and whipped cream. Experiment with new combinations, too—get peanut butter, raisins, pineapple chunks, etc. Skip the sardines, though. Get cones then head back to your house and lay everything out. Have a big sundae party. Everyone can whip up their own gastronomic delight (hopefully not a disaster). Give prizes to the best and worst creations.

Maximize your mini pool's potentials. There are so many things you can do with a good, sturdy inflatable pool. Fill it with ice and bob for prizes, or fill it with ice-cold water and freeze your buttocks off, soaking in it. Pour a bottle of bubble bath solution into it and play with the soapsuds. Don't forget your rubber duckie.

Brain freeze showdown. Whip up shakes—mango, banana, mango banana, chocolate, vanilla, strawberry, your pick. Sip them straight up and see who can drink the most shake without suffering the hell of brain freeze. Give the winner a prize—maybe another pitcher of shake?

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Have a soulful summer

By Maui V. Reyes
2bU! Correspondent

The Spirit Room
Michelle Branch
Warner Music

"I've been searching deep down my soul/Words that I'm hearing are starting to get old..."

REVIEWS

IT takes more than an acoustic guitar to pack punches when it comes to music that splits your heart open with honesty. While most manufactured groups try their best to rip open that heart of yours with plastic surgical knives (you know, the kind your mom bought you when you were a kid, when you wanted to play doctor), Michelle Branch, at 18, has the wisdom beyond her years—and beyond her peers—to deliver a *real* operation.

If most teen acts let us peek into their manufactured diaries that speak of life and love, Branch welcomes us into her own "Spirit Room," where we get to see more than broken hearts and unrequited love. Armed with a guitar and mixing board, Branch opens the door with an 11-track debut album produced by John Shanks, who also twiddled the knobs on Melissa Etheridge's album.

Inspired by mid-'90s artists like Alanis Morissette and Jewel, Branch gives adolescent musicians another shot at music-making for the critics. Her music is uplifting, reminiscent of those "moments of confusion" that teens go through, at the same time staying in tune with reality.

Take the track, "Here with Me" ("I know you had to go away/I died just a little/and I feel it now/you're the one I need"). She gives a friend credit for being there in "You Get Me" ("Hey, you are on my side/And they, they just roll their eyes"), and is apparently aware of some game-playing on "Sweet Misery" ("I was weak/you were strong/And me and my guitar/We strummed along/Sweet misery you cause me").

MICHELLE Branch sings the blues.

Although gifted with the talent of fine songwriting (let's admit that her peers don't quite catch the nitty-gritty details of relationships), Branch still has a long, long way to go if she wants to bust out of the teen-pop stereotype. Because although there are lots of people out there who give her credit for picking up a pen and strumming to songs *she* herself wrote, Branch's image still sticks her into the "M2M category." It's good pop with soul. It's a pretty chick armed with a guitar. It's a pop song called "Everywhere" with a video of a model going around a city and Branch spying on him.

Real fans, however, should get the little gems that Branch delivers in her album of more than just car radio-friendly songs. The chorus of her single, "Everywhere" may be pop, yes, but there's heartbreaking truth in the song "I'd Rather be in Love" and a sad realization in "Goodbye to You" and the sappy ballad "Deep in the Ocean."

For now we'll have to endure seeing Michelle Branch in shiny lip gloss, working the camera like a darling teen pop sensation. We'll be spinning this record until she records her second.

This Way
Jewel Kitcher
Warner Music

"NIGHT with its shattered teeth attempts to speak/My pen is present but courage left via the sink/And I'm sorry I snuck up on you from behind/Sorry not all my love letters did rhyme/And I'm sorry that Jesus died for my sins/And I swear to God it won't happen again/And I'm sorry if it was my swerve that tempted you to way/Oh well/Sometimes it be that way."

JEWEL Kitcher, poetic goddess

Years of living out of a van and washing her hair in K-Mart washrooms never fazed the spirit of Alaskan native Jewel Kitcher. They are probably among the many reasons she has three multimillion-selling albums, numerous awards, best-selling books and dozens of rave reviews under her belt.

Packed with more of that Jewel poetry we just can't get enough off, "This Way," Jewel's fourth album (counting her very sleepy Christmas offering), delivers more of that folk-laced contemporary music Jewel fans know and love. She doesn't even have to try hard to land a spot on mainstream radio—her soulful, flighty voice just happens to find its way in charts that cater more to Britney than Macy.

Country sneaks into this little ditty, most evidently on tracks like "Everybody Needs Someone Sometime," and morphs into a '70s rock on "Love Me, Just Leave Me Alone." The track, "Serve the Ego," is sprinkled with middle-Eastern treats, and "I Won't Walk Away" features the soothing tinkering of pianos and string instruments.

The many faces of Jewel are not only presented in the musical arrangements on this album—as always, her songwriting just kills us with her humor, wit and highly concentrated honesty that unconsciously (or maybe consciously?) flow out of her whenever she picks up a pen.

The synthesizer-filled track, "Break Me," is a cry of desperation, a sad track that delivers the package ("So break me/Take me/Just let me fill your arms again"), while the witty "Jesus Loves You" dares us to think about and question those oh-so-guilty thoughts we have on life, those bitter statements we make that make us feel selfish like anything ("They say that Jesus Loves you/What about me?/They say money breaks you/I wanna see").

Take a bite out of irony with the track "Grey Matter" ("I hate you/I love you/Leave/Don't go away/I can't decide if I like your face/Or if I wish it would stray"). Jewel then coaxes us to stay the way we are in "This Way" ("Say that you'll stay/Forever this way/Forever and ever"), and talks about where changes end in "Till We Run out of Road" ("We're leaving again/Can't recall where all we've been/Guess we'll just go/Go till we're too old/Or we run out of road").

And where exactly is the end of the road for Jewel? Who cares as long she keeps dishing out what we'd call musical brilliance, almost never disappointing, never tiring. She continues to marry different genres of music with such subtlety it's almost impossible to put her under one genre.

But then, again, as she says in "Do You Want to Play?," "Oh you're so special/Oh, who gives a.../Do you want to play?"

Play that guitar now, cowgirl.

E-mail the author at volcanogirl28 @hotmail.com

Be fashionable—and safe—with the right eyewear

By Michelle C. Pino
2bU! Correspondent

IT'S summertime. The temperature is rising, the sun is scorching, every thing is hot, hot, hot.

As clothes become hip-per and trendier with tropical motifs and sultry designs, you need chic eyewear to complement them. Eyeshades or sunglasses never go out of style. They add a little glamour to casual clothes or even formal wear. They help to keep you cool or glamorous from sunup to sundown.

Humongous dark shades covering almost half your face can make you feel like a genuine public figure. If you want to project a show-biz image or look like a real star, grab some genuine eyeshades and don't hit the beach or walk under the sun without them. Almost all celebrities have cool eyewear that go well with fame or notoriety, or both. Why not follow their lead?

Women can choose from cute and adorable to sophisticated and *maldita* while men can go from naive, boy-next-door to tough and hunky with the right eyewear.

Eyeshades are not only fashionable but also protect your eyes from the sun

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Even at night

Shades hide puffy eyes or eye bags. No one has to know you had a stressful night or have not been sleeping well for a week. Thick, dark glasses will hide all kinds of eye problems.

What happens when the sun comes down? You don't have to look like one of the three blind mice in a fashionable swimsuit in a beach party. Invest in more than one pair of shades. Eyewear no longer comes only in dark colors. Pastel lenses give people glimpses of your eyes but still hide the redness or stress.

If you plan to be out from sunup to sundown, bring along at least two pairs of eyewear of different shades, using light-colored glasses at night for clearer vision. You can even use light shades in a formal party if they go with the suit.

Shield

Eyeshades are not for fashion alone. They also protect your eyes from the glare and brightness of the sun. Your eyes need all the protection it can get, especially if you're into summer sports and have to stay under the sun for hours. Unprotected exposure of the eyes to the sun's rays can result in serious damage, which might be permanent.

When buying eyeshades, choose those with UV (ultraviolet) protection. Dark-colored shades are sensible choices, although there are already light-colored shades in the market that also provide UV protection.

Keep your eyes safe and protected in the most fashionable way where ever you go and whatever you do during the hot, dry months ahead.

Choose the eyeshades that fit your personality and your wardrobe.

Rivermaya to perform at YOU.inq7.net launch

BANDS come and go, and we've seen the fate of many one-hit wonders. Some musical artists, however, manage to transcend trends and keep their music fresh—particularly for today's youth.

Despite a number of challenges over the years, Rivermaya has proven its staying power as one of the country's most popular bands. For "Tuloy ang Ligaya," the band's first studio album under Viva Entertainment Group's Vacation music label, Rivermaya introduced three new members— Japs Sergio on bass and Mike Elgar and Kakoi Legaspi on guitars. They joined veterans Rico Blanco, the band's lead vocalist and chief songwriter, and Mark Escueta, drummer and webmaster of Rivermaya.net.

On April 6, Rivermaya will rock the youth with its performance at the "YOU Summer Break Party" at the Glorietta Activity Center. Adding star power to the YOU launch is another top-rated band, South Border.

YOU is INQ7.net's website for today's youth at http://you.inq7.net. INQ7 Interactive Inc. is a joint venture between the Philippine Daily Inquirer Inc. and GMA Network Inc.

As celebrities, do the members of Rivermaya find it hard to live up to expectations as role models for the youth?

"Today's youth know better than to simply follow the lifestyles of celebrities. In fact, sometimes kids even look at celebrities' lives as models of what not to do. I think blaming celebrities for badly influencing kids is for parents who are remiss with their child-rearing responsibilities," Blanco says.

"Musicians never grow old. People of all ages always want to have a good time and it means a lot to us when they do. It's also really cool that a lot of parents let their kids go to our shows because they can also relate to our music, and they like the fact that we're all college grads and Kakoi's still in school. Sometimes they even accompany their kids to the shows," Escueta says.

"Today's youth is very hard to please in terms of music. We have to keep up with the changes to keep them interested," Elgar adds.

Legaspi, who's a psychology major at the University of Santo Tomas, says: "We just deliver the music as truthfully and honestly as possible, because everyone, especially the youth, is tired of being fooled."

Rivermaya has also led the way in tapping the Internet as a tool for music.

In 2000, Rivermaya released "Free" on the Internet. The album was available as both downloadable MP3s as well as actual CDs given away through a number of leading Philippine websites. "Free" was named Album of the Year at the 2000 NU Rock Awards.

INQ7.net will also launch a Rivermaya mini-site in time for the "YOU Summer Break Party," featuring downloadable MP3 files. With the outcry over online music piracy, however, what do the members think about the Internet's role in shaping the music industry?

'I'd be a hypocrite if I told you I never downloaded music from the Internet. Downloading music is fine with me because it's usually just for collection purposes, not for profit. What bothers me is music being sold by these damn pirates. But today's technology has helped a lot of independent artists make music with good quality and with less money," Sergio adds.

In a world of ever-changing tastes, the willingness to evolve is the key to Rivermaya's continuing success.

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- Animated Profile Logos
- Rhythmic Backlight Alert
- Personalized Text Alert
- Send long text messages (459 characters)
- Phonebook for 150 names and numbers
- WAP Browser with Service Inbox

NOKIA 3350

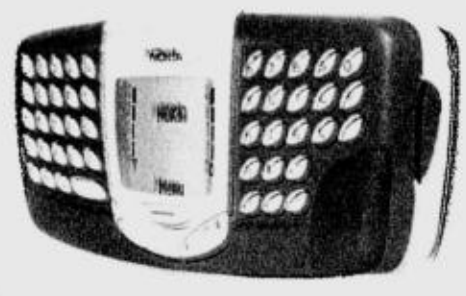
Dressed For Thrills

- Changeable Xpress-on™ Shells
- Protection against water splashes and dust*
- Thermometer, Stopwatch and Countdown Timer
- Picture Editor + Composer
- Calendar with training icons
- Send long text messages (459 characters)
- Animated Profile Logos
- 5 Games: Snake 2+Pairs 2+Space Impact+Bumper+Bantumi
- Rhythmic Backlight Alert
- Game Pack Downloads

** Phone is not waterproof. Please read owner's guide for more information.*

NOKIA 5210

Turn Your World Around



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- Weekly Calendar View
- Personalized Text Alert
- High Density 96 x 65 pixel Display
- Supports WAP + GPRS + HSCSD services

NOKIA 6510

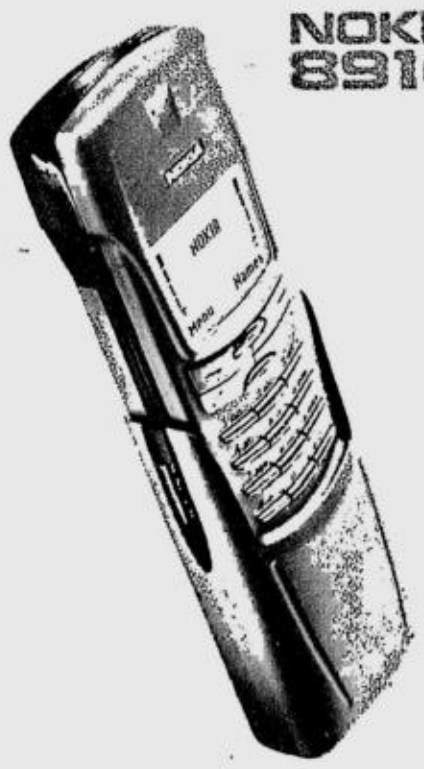
NOKIA 8310

You'll Want It

- New Design/Tridimensional Look and Feel
- Changeable Xpress-on™ Covers
- Bright White LCD Display
- Integrated FM Radio with 20 presets
- Dynamic Memory for up to:
  - 500 names with up to 3 numbers per name
  - 150 text messages or 150 Calendar Notes
- Voice Dialling/Voice Recorder & Voice Commands
- Supports WAP + GPRS + HSCSD services

NOKIA 8855

NOKIA 8910



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PCGG unhappy over Ombudsman's handling of cases

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 5

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Thursday, April 4, 2002 ★★ 48 pages / 4 sections / vol.17 / no. 115 ₱15

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Gloria: 2 kidnappers will die in August

SHE VOTED against the death penalty while still a senator, but President Macapagal-Arroyo is now determined to put to death by lethal injection two convicted kidnappers.

Unless a new law repealing the death penalty is passed, the execution will proceed as scheduled in August, the first judicial execution in three years.

GLORIA/A18

GETTY IMAGES

TRAPPED Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat at prayer: They are striking the church of the Virgin Mary.

Palestinians occupy Church of the Nativity

BETHLEHEM, West Bank—One hundred twenty Palestinian gunmen were hiding inside one of Christianity's holiest shrines—Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity—on Wednesday, seeking refuge from Israeli troops, helicopters and tanks that invaded the city as part of an offensive aimed at crushing Palestinian militias in the West Bank.

The bodies of four gunmen, shot dead in a firefight on Tuesday, remained sprawled on a side street near the church on Wednesday morning, with rescue services unable to reach them or other casualties because of constant shooting.

A tank was stationed at the edge of Manger Square, adjacent to the church. Bethlehem Mayor Hana Nasser said soldiers had occupied the municipality building overlooking the square and the church.

In the West Bank commercial center of Ramallah, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat remained pinned down by Israeli troops and tanks, his compound now ringed by barbed wire.

Arafat criticized Israel's Bethlehem incursion: "Today they attacked Bethlehem where Jesus was born. Can you imagine?

PALESTINIANS/A18

AP

THE ANGUISH on the face of the bereaved tells of the continuing saga of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

GMA: No to Cha-cha

'Congress has more important issues to discuss, like poverty'

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Juliet L. Javellana

CONGRESS can start talking about amending the 1987 Constitution "after we have overcome poverty in 10 years," President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday.

In an interview over Bombo Radyo, the President said she would not support Charter change now but would not stop lawmakers from pushing it. "They have the right to call for it, but I also have the right to oppose it," she said.

She also pointed out that Congress had more important issues to discuss, and that it had yet to deliver on many of the 16 urgent bills she endorsed in her first State of the Nation Address last June.

But even the opposition at the House of Representatives sees "unity" among senators and congressmen in the move to amend the Charter, including changing the present form of government.

House leaders said there was a majority consensus in the chamber to push for the "more responsive" parliamentary system.

The proposed Charter change has raised questions about what is in store for the top two leaders of the ruling Lakas—the President and Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr.—under the new form of government envisioned to be in place by 2010.

Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez conceded that De Venecia had the edge to become Prime Minister because the head of the party or coalition that would control the envisioned Parliament would take the post.

"Yes, of course (De Venecia has the edge), but to me, he was never part of the equation because it's really the consensus that the Constitution should be amended," Gonzalez said in a phone interview.

But Iloilo Rep. Augusto Syjuco said Charter change would amount to nothing unless what he called the "ABC of our national nightmare"—which he listed as "the Abu Sayyaf, bad infra-

GMA/A17

Lawmaker asks Meralco: Where did profits go?

By Juliet L. Javellana and Ronnel W. Domingo

WERE earnings of the Manila Electric Co. used to finance the expansion of other Lopez-owned business ventures?

Iloilo City Rep. Raul Gonzalez, deputy speaker for the Visayas, said this question must be answered during the forthcoming congressional investigation of Meralco's plan to increase its rates.

Gonzalez, who filed the resolution seeking the investigation, said Meralco might have been forced to seek an increase to recover losses incurred from the expansion of Lopez companies.

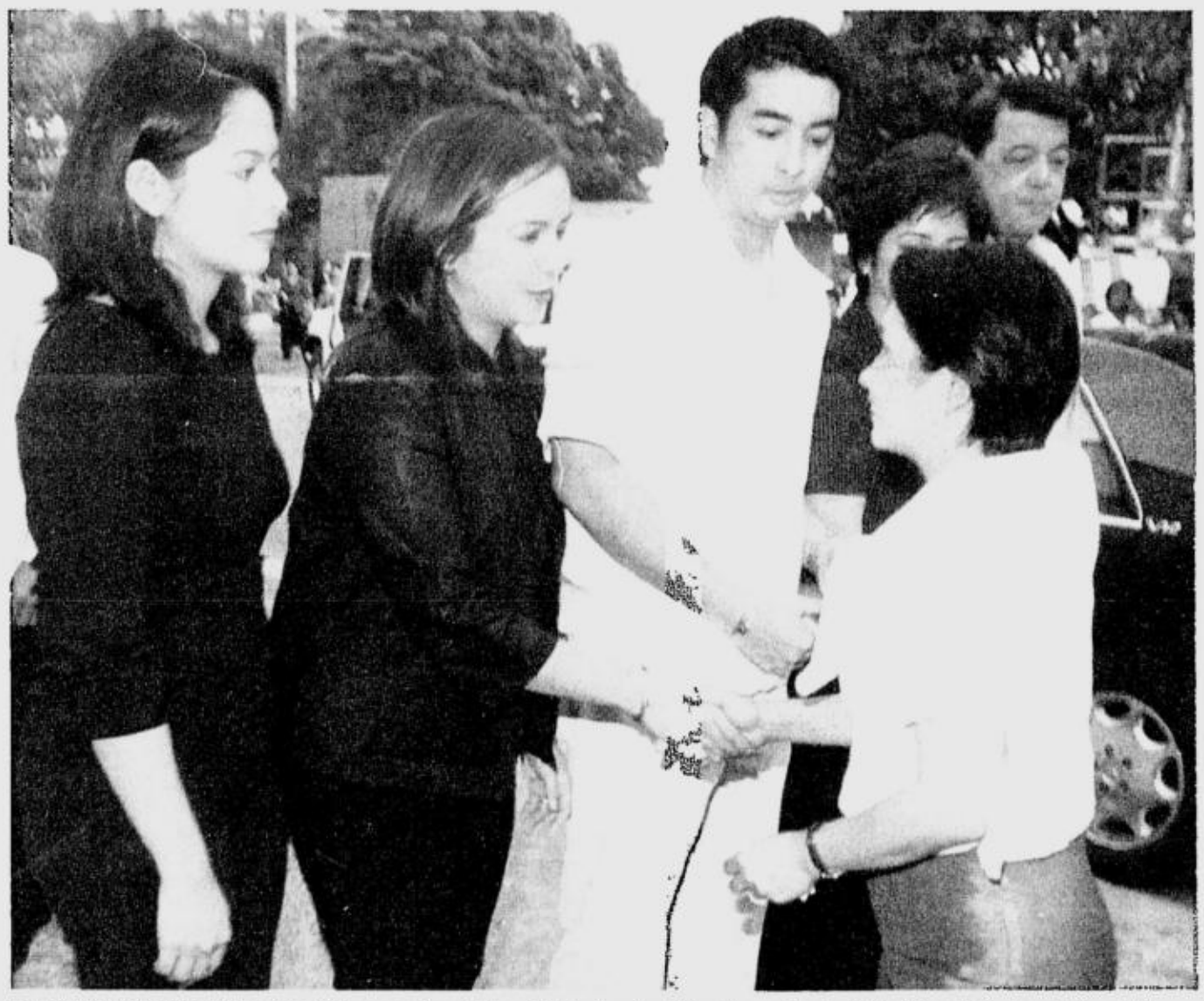
"I received reports that Meralco's earnings were invested in many affiliate companies," Gonzalez told the INQUIRER on the phone. "They expanded too fast, borrowed too many dollars and when the (peso dropped), they had difficulties meeting their obligations," he said.

Gonzalez said a number of Lopez ventures failed.

Gonzalez, quoting Meralco sources, said the power distributor was earning billions of pesos. If this was so, the company is in a position to shoulder part of the power costs without raising its rates.

Gonzalez said he wanted to know

LAWMAKER/A18



PRESIDENTIAL VISIT: President Macapagal condoles with the family of Rico Yan at the La Salle Greenhills chapel, from left Rico's sisters Tina and Geraldine, brother Bobby and mother Cita (partly hidden) and father Roberto. The young actor will be laid to rest this morning at the Manila Memorial Park. *(Story on pages A23 and A24.)*

Debate heats up: GMA calls Beltran 'communist'

By Dona Pazzibugan

DOES raising the communist bogey work against opponents of Manila Electric Co.'s petition to raise its rates?

President Macapagal-Arroyo thinks so as she rebuked Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran by calling him a "communist."

The President was reacting to Beltran's claim that the government could lower power rates if it had the "political will" to do so.

"Crispin Beltran is a communist. (To him) the government can't do anything good," the President said over Bombo Radyo yesterday.

She found impractical Beltran's proposal to cancel the concession to power distributors unless they lower their rates, particularly the item for the purchased power adjustment (PPA).

The PPA, which accounts for more than half of a consumer's monthly bill, represents the electricity bought by the National Power Corp. from independent power producers (IPPs).

The electricity that the Lopez-controlled Meralco distributes comes from Napocor and the IPPs, many of which have idle capacity consumers pay for

DEBATE/A18

Water firms also under fire over plans to increase rates

By Christine Avendaño

THE LOPEZ family is under fire not only for Manila Electric Co.'s plan to raise power rates but also for the high water rates that another Lopez-controlled company is charging customers in Metro Manila and parts of Cavite.

Responding to complaints, House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla yesterday said he would file this week a resolution calling for an investigation of the rates of Maynilad Water Services Inc. and Manila Water Co. Inc.

Maynilad is controlled by the Lopezes while Manila Water is owned by the Ayalas.

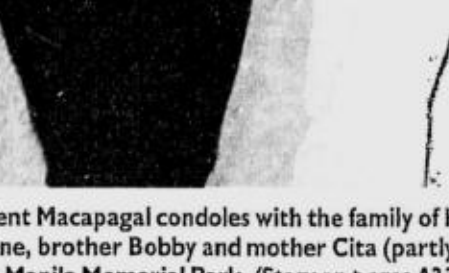
"They (water consumers) are asking why their bills are too high when they are not consuming that much water," Padilla said in a phone interview.

The two private water concessionaires raised their rates three times last year.

Last January, they again raised their rates. Maynilad increased its water charges by P4.07 per cubic meter and Manila Water by P2.54 per cubic meter.

As a result of the increase in January, Maynilad customers are now being charged P24.42 per cubic meter, a 20-percent increase. The amount includes value added tax (VAT) and environment and sewerage taxes.

WATER/A18



New karaoke will save lives, keep listeners' sanity

TOKYO—If nothing else, less people will be driven to murder by an off-key version of "My Way."

The nation that brought the world karaoke has found a way to protect audiences' ears from the damage inflicted by tone-deaf crooners—a

NEW/A17

Yorac wonders why PCGG research chief has own files

By Donna S. Cueto

ADD this to the woes of the Presidential Commission on Good Government. No less than the PCGG chair thinks the commission's head of research has been monopolizing the agency's vital documents. Lawyer Haydee Yorac said the other day that PCGG research chief Danilo Daniel was "lifting" key documents on the international accounts of Marcos cronies from the PCGG library.

Yorac said she had also been told that Daniel was keeping his own files, apart from those in the PCGG library.

A source close to Daniel yesterday confirmed that the research head did keep some of the files himself, but added that Daniel did not see anything wrong with the

YORAC/A16

PCGG very unhappy over Ombudsman's handling of cases

By Donna S. Cueto

NOT ALL is well between the Presidential Commission on Good Government and the Office of the Ombudsman.

PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza said yesterday there had been many instances when special prosecutors of Ombudsman Aniano Desierto filed motions for withdrawal on important cases before the Sandiganbayan, without informing the PCGG.

"The problem is in the handling of the

PCGG/A16

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Second FRONT PAGE

TERRORIST MONEY TRAIL

Palace disowns info vs Libya

MALACAÑANG yesterday disowned a statement by a justice department official alleging the involvement of Libya in the Sipadan hostage-taking or that the Libyan government may have used ransom payments to the Abu Sayyaf as a cover to deliver funds to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network.

"There is no evidence at all that the Libyan government was involved in the ransom payments for the release of the Sipadan hostages, much less that it provided funds to any international terrorist network through the Abu Sayyaf," said Press Secretary Rigoberto Tiglao in a statement.

"Suspicions or theories raised in an internal intelligence briefing abroad were not intended for public disclosure, and no Philippine government official was authorized to report such speculations," Tiglao said.

Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida said the other day that Philippine and United States investigators were investigating the paper trail of the ransom payments made to the Abu Sayyaf during the Sipadan hostage crisis in 2000 after suspicions were raised that the money could have been funneled to Bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

He said analysts at a conference on terrorism that he attended in the US last month had theorized that the Libyan government may have used the Sipadan crisis as a cover for delivering money to the Abu Sayyaf which had been linked to Bin Laden's terrorist network.

Calida said investigators were also looking into Libya's possible involvement in the Sipadan crisis and the subsequent hostage-taking incidents in Palawan and Mindanao.

Tiglao said the President was denying "any statement attributed to any Philippine government official alleging the involvement of Libya in ransom payments to the Abu Sayyaf."

He said Ms Macapagal was "grateful for the invaluable assistance of the Libyan government in its peace settlement with the Moro National Liberation Front in 1996, and for its leader Moammar Gadhafi's very strong condemnation of the Abu Sayyaf and its terrorist activities."

Gadhafi has continued to assist the government in forging an enduring peace in Mindanao, "and we are very grateful for such help," the Malacañang statement said.

It said Libya has also been supportive of the government's effort to build up the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao as the main vehicle for undertaking the economic growth of the country's Muslim areas.

The Libyan Embassy has not issued any official statement in reaction to the allegations.

Libyan Ambassador Salem Adem is said to be out of the country and no other responsible official from the Libyan mission was available for comment. ***With a report from Michael Lim Ubac***

With drones' help, troops kill 3 Abus

ZAMBOANGA CITY—With United States military spy planes providing crucial intelligence, government troops raided a small island off Basilan yesterday and killed at least three Abu Sayyaf bandits, the military said yesterday.

US military spy planes guided Philippine Navy forces to a rebel hideout in Dasalan island off the western coast of the Abu Sayyaf stronghold of Basilan, they said.

A firefight ensued after the bandits ignored warning shots and tried to escape aboard five pump boats. Naval guns sank two boats and at least three Abu Sayyaf gunmen were killed.

Two MG-520 attack helicopters were dispatched to pursue the three other rebel boats, while several high-powered firearms were recovered.

"We understand at least three Abu Sayyaf gunmen were killed, we are trying to determine if the hostages are there (on Dasalan)," Southern Command spokesperson Lt. Col. Danilo Servando told reporters here.

"The surveillance equipment provided by the Americans helped us develop this intelligence operation," he said.

No government casualties were reported in the clash.

None of the more than 600 US soldiers who are in Basilan and Zamboanga for the Balikatan 02-01 joint exercises was involved in the clash, Servando said.

No sighting

There was no sighting of missionaries Gracia and Martin Burnham and Filipino nurse Ediborah Yap on Dasalan, Servando said. The captives were all in Basilan, he said.

The pre-dawn fighting was the latest in a series of recent clashes involving the Abu Sayyaf which military officials partly attribute to US spy planes and other monitoring equipment.

The bandit group is on the run from a joint US-Philippine operation in Mindanao involving some 660 US forces.

The bandits have been holding hostage a US missionary couple and a Filipino nurse since last year and have been linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terror network.

The Abu Sayyaf, numbering around 300, have split into three groups, with the hostages being held by the core unit led by rebel leader Abu Sabaya, Servando said, quoting intelligence reports.

Island refuge

The bandits take refuge on Dansalan and nearby islands scattered off the town of Maluso to evade military assaults on Basilan, Servando said.

"What they are doing now is to hide their hostages to prevent any rescue attempt," said one official in the area who asked not to be identified.

Servando said he doubted the bandits would be able to escape to another island.

"It will be difficult for them to extricate themselves out of Basilan. Their movements are being monitored and our intelligence is working," he said.

Maluso is adjacent to Lantawan, where troops tracked down and clashed with the Abu Sayyaf at least three times in recent weeks. ***AFP, AP and Reuters, with a report from Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

US stops search for bodies

By J. Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The United States has made the "painful decision" to stop the search for the bodies of the two American servicemen still missing after an MH-47 Chinook helicopter crashed at sea off Apo Island in Negros Oriental on Feb. 22.

"Salvage and recovery operations have been concluded for the crewmen of the US Army MH-47 Chinook that crashed at sea in February," Major Richard Sater, public affairs officer of the 432nd Aerospace Expeditionary Group, said in a press statement he read before reporters here yesterday.

Sater said the American recovery team, after 10 days of search, had decided to stop the operation, concluding that it would be difficult for them to recover the remaining two bodies.

Sater said they were hoping that the relatives of the missing two soldiers would understand the situation.

The crash killed eight Army and two Air Force crewmen. Eight bodies have so far been recovered since the crash. The first three were recovered immediately after the crash.

Eight bodies

The remains of the five American servicemen were found in the waters off Zamboangita, Negros Oriental, last Thursday. Their bodies arrived in Cebu shortly before noon yesterday, according to Capt. Enrico Canaya, spokesperson of the Tactical Operations Command (TOC) in Mactan Benito Ebuen Airbase.

Court orders new probe of Indon terror suspects

A TRIAL court has ordered government prosecutors to conduct a preliminary investigation into the suspected involvement in bombings and bomb plots in Metro Manila of three Indonesians arrested recently at the international airport, officials said.

Tamsil Linrung, Agus Dwirkana and Abdul Jamal Balfas were to have been arraigned Wednesday on a charge of illegal possession of explosives when Regional Trial Court Judge Henrick Gingoyon granted their request to submit counter-affidavits to refute the charges, clerk of court Joy Rillera said.

Conviction of the charge carries a maximum penalty of 14 years imprisonment.

Philippine authorities branded the three as suspected terrorists, while some Indonesians said the case was politically motivated and the trio was detained at Jakarta's request.

"The court directed the city prosecutor's office to conduct a preliminary investigation and come up with a report within 60 days," Rillera told Agence France Presse.

The three claimed they were not given a chance to file counter-affidavits when they were apprehended on March 13 after police allegedly found bomb-making paraphernalia in their luggage, Rillera said.

Philippine intelligence officials alleged the three had met previously with another Indonesian, Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, who was arrested in Manila in January and reportedly admitted to plotting a string of deadly bomb attacks in Metro Manila in December 2000. **AFP**

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Ang tension headache ay sakit ng ulo na may kasamang pananakit ng batok, ngunit wala namang pagsusuka. Ito'y maaaring dulot ng pagod, hindi wastong pagtulog, eyestrain o kaya depression.
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Malaking bagay ang kaalaman tungkol sa tamang generic name ng gamot. Hindi na nakakalito ang pagpili ng tamang gamot na para sa inyo. Ito rin ang paraan kung paano kayo makakatipid tuwing bibili ng paracetamol o mefenamic acid. Sapagkat maaari na ninyong piliin ang produkto na kasing bisa din naman ng branded na gamot sa mas murang halaga.
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Ani admits Erap needs knee surgery

By Volt Contreras

JOSEPH Estrada's newly appointed public lawyers, who "inherited" the job of pushing for their client to have knee surgery in the United States, were able to make Ombudsman Aniano Desierto admit yesterday that the ousted president does need "treatment."

Persida Acosta, who heads Estrada's de officio defense team from the Public Attorneys Office, said the admission by Desierto has provided them with a "good foundation" on which to build their arguments through expert witnesses.

At yesterday's hearing before the Sandiganbayan's special court, government prosecutors also acknowledged the veracity of Estrada's X-ray reports which showed he is suffering from osteoarthritis in both knees.

But they disputed the contention of a radiologist presented by the defense that the ex-president's ailment was "progressive," a condition that Estrada's lawyers said demands immediate "surgical intervention."

Desierto, in reply to a question posed by Associate Justice Minita Nazario, said his panel was only willing to stipulate on the "necessity of Estrada's treatment."

But whether Estrada must actually undergo an operation soon—and in the US, at that—was still up to the defense panel to argue, he said

Desierto rejected a proposal made by another new Estrada lawyer, retired Sandiganbayan Justice Manuel Pamaran, that both sides already agree that Estrada's condition calls for surgery.

Erap's rights

Pamaran said he wants to "expedite proceedings" by limiting the issue to Estrada's "right" to obtain treatment from a doctor and hospital of his choice.

Prosecutors oppose Estrada's bid to undergo knee surgery in the US on the ground the law denies such an accommodation to persons charged with a capital offense and who are being held without bail.

Acosta told the court her team plans to grill a "world renowned" Filipino bone surgeon who had been cited by the prosecutors as a very competent doctor who could perform the knee surgery on Estrada in the Philippines.

She was referring to Dr. Ramon Gustilo, a retiring surgeon who had mainly practiced in Minnesota, USA.

Another PAO lawyer, Joefferson Toribio, said Gustilo would be asked about the "right" of a person to choose his own doctor and place of treatment.

"Even if you have the facilities and expertise, what if the patient doesn't like you?" Toribio said, giving the INQUIRER a hint at the line of questioning they plan for Gustilo.

The Estrada lawyers said they also plan to call to the stand Estrada's personal physician, Dr. Larry Hocson, to testify further on the "necessity" of having the knee operation.

Also considered as a defense witness is Dr. Liderato Casison, clinician of the Veterans Memorial Medical Center, who recommended the X-ray examination of Estrada's knees.

Unlucky '13' haunts Erap

THE NUMBER "13," which has proven unlucky for deposed President Joseph Estrada, has resurfaced to hound the jailed former leader.

The Sandiganbayan appointed yesterday five more de officio lawyers for Estrada, bringing to 13 the number of his lawyers after eight were assigned to him by the court last month.

The new appointees are Public Attorneys Office chief Persida Acosta and lawyers Francisco Sanchez III, Wilfredo Andres, Oscar Co and Maximo Usita Jr.

The original eight are retired Sandigan-bayan Presiding Justice Manuel Pamaran, private lawyers Prospero Crescini, Irene Jurado and Noel Malaya, and PAO lawyers Arturo Temanil, Joefferson Toribio, Silvestre Mosing and Melita Lauron.

The court made the new appointments on the oral motion of Mosing at the start of yesterday's hearing on Estrada's petition to undergo knee surgery in the United States.

Mosing said his team needed more lawyers who could focus on defending Estrada's co-accused son, Jinggoy.

The 13th president of the Philippines, Estrada was impeached in the House of Representatives on Nov. 13, 2000.

Bank executive Clarissa Ocampo, who testified at Estrada's impeachment trial that she saw him sign the name "Jose Velarde" to bank documents, was the 13th witness presented by House prosecutors.

Then Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Angelo Reyes withdrew military support from Estrada with a 13-word opening statement before the Edsa II crowd: "We wish to announce that we are withdrawing our support from the President." *Volt Contreras*

REMINDER

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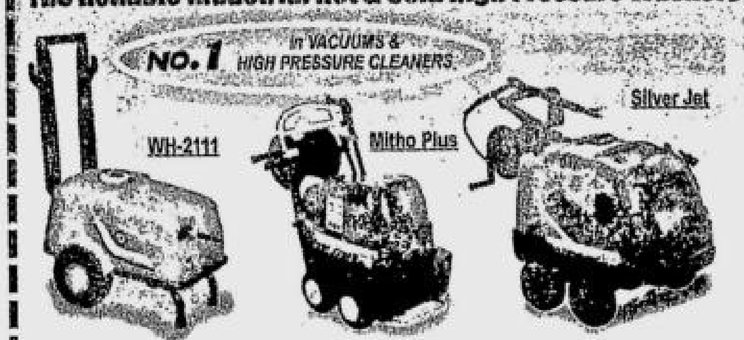

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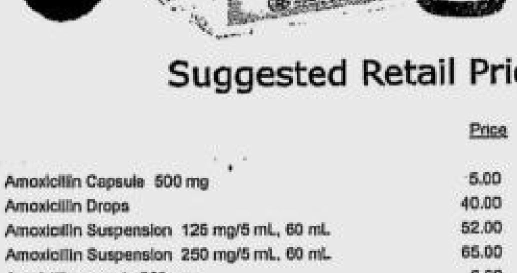

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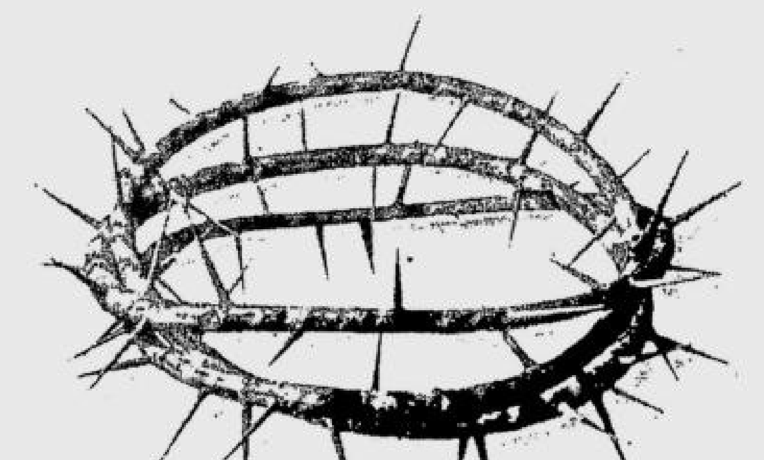

Sino ang Tunay na Jesus?

Lubhang napakaming bagay na tayong naririnig ukol kay Jesus. May nagsasabi na siya'y tao lamang at hindi Diyos; Ang iba naman ay nagsasabing siya ay isang propeta o kaya'y isang na anghel mula sa Diyos. May nagsasabi rin na siya ang Diyos Ama na nagkatawang tao lamang.

Alin sa mga ito ang makatotohanan? At alin ang pawang mga haka-haka lamang? May paraan ba para malaman natin ang katotohanan?

Nang dumating si Jesus sa lupain ng Cesarea ng Filipos, tinanong niya ang kanyang mga alagad, "Sino raw ang Anak ng Tao, ayon sa mga tao?"

At sumagot sila, "Ang sabi po ng ilan ay si Juan Bautista kayo. Sabi naman ng iba, si Elias kayo. At may nagsasabi pang si Jeremias kayo o isa sa mga propeta." "Kayo naman, ano ang sabi ninyo? Sino ako?" Tanong niya sa kanila. Sumagot si Simon Pedro, "Kayo po ang Cristo, ang Anak ng Diyos na buhay." Sinabi sa kanya ni Jesus, "Mapalad ka, Simon na anak ni Jonas! Sapagkat ang katotohanang ito'y hindi inihayag sa iyo ng sinumang tao kundi ng aking Amang nasa langit." (Mateo 16:13-17)

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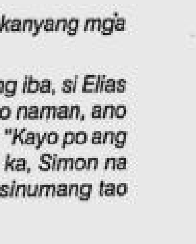

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US court orders envoy's son to pay up

MORTENSEN: Before and after the alleged beating by Lhuillier.

By Armand N. Nocum

A UNITED States court has ordered the son of Philippine Ambassador to Italy Philippe Lhuillier to pay for the medical bills and therapy of a Filipino-American girl the young Lhuillier had allegedly assaulted in California.

In a "restitution hearing" on a criminal case that the San Mateo County had filed against Andre D. Lhuillier, the court said Lhuillier should pay for the medical expenses of his former girlfriend, Kelly Murga Mortensen.

Mortensen incurred the medical bills after she was rushed to the hospital on Dec. 15, 2000 following an alleged beating from Lhuillier.

In a letter to San Mateo District Attorney Jill Gillian, Lucy Ortegas, a victims advocate of the San Mateo County probation department, said the court had granted Mortenson full payment of her medical bills "in an undisclosed amount."

In her March 6 letter, Ortegas said her office "fully supported Ms Mortensen throughout this ordeal."

The San Mateo County filed a criminal case against Lhuillier when, after responding to a call, authorities found Mortensen bloodied and bruised from an alleged beating by Lhuillier in a house they shared at 260 Woodridge Road, San Mateo County.

According to police and court records that Mortensen's lawyer Erik A. Humber sent to the INQUIRER recently, Lhuillier was arrested and briefly detained for "violation of (US) Penal Code section 273.5(a)-Domestic Violence."

Mortensen told police investigators that "over the past two years, there have been approximately 20 incidences of violence against her."

Humber said Lhuillier had pleaded "no contest to simple assault."

Lhullier's lawyer, Angelito Bulao, disputed the claim of Ortegas. He denied that the San Mateo county court had ordered his client to pay for Mortensen's medical bills.

"I talked to Andre, he said there was no order to pay," he said.

Bulao claimed that Mortensen's injuries arose from an accident that occurred in the residence she shared with Lhuillier and were covered by the insurance on the house.

"It was understood that the insurance will cover Mortensen's hospital bills," Bulao said.

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HK man gets 3 months for scalding Pinay

HONG KONG—A Hong Kong man was sentenced Wednesday to three months in jail for scalding his Filipino live-in maid with hot tea, court officials said.

Magistrate Ken Ng jailed surveyor Lau Siu-wah, 42, for one count of assault that caused bodily harm, according to a North Kowloon magistracy official who only gave her surname as Yeung.

The court heard that Lau splashed hot tea over his 28-year-old maid, Marietes Gacad Navarro, after she refused to sign an agreement deducting HK$300 ($38.50) from her salary for failing to record her chores in a log book about a year ago.

Navarro was scalded on the right side of her abdomen and her right thigh.

Lau then asked Navarro to pack up her belongings and took the maid back to the employment agency that had placed her with him. *AP*

BAGUIO ART MALACANANG PHOTO

President Macapagal-Arroyo appreciates the various paintings and sculptures showcased in the "Guhit" Art Exhibit at the Baguio Country Club in Baguio City on Holy Thursday. The exhibit was put up by eight acclaimed artists of the city and was open to the public until Tuesday.

Angara watching 2003 budget

THE SENATE minority has vowed to scrutinize the proposed P798-billion national budget for 2003.

This was disclosed by opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara who said that the 2003 budget should "depart dramatically from the anti-growth and anti-poor thrusts of the 2002 budget."

"We have to do what we ought to do and this is fight for a budget that is pro-growth and pro-poor," Angara said in a statement.

Angara said the Senate minority will "fight any attempt to repeat the sad story of the 2002 national budget which gave priority to debt service and the reining in of the budgetary deficit more than the urgent imperatives of growth."

He underscored that the 2003 budget should focus on social expenditures, job-generation and productivity enhancement measures.

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Thursday, April 4, 2002
Octave of Easter

1st Reading: **Acts 3:11-26**
Gospel: **Lk 24:35-48**

The two disciples told what had happened on the road and how Jesus made himself known when he broke the bread with them.

As they went on talking about this, Jesus himself stood in their midst. (And he said to them, "Peace to you.") In their panic and fright they thought they were seeing a ghost, but he said to them, "Why are you upset and why do such ideas cross your mind? Look at my hands and feet and see that it is I myself. Touch me and see for yourselves that a ghost has no flesh and bones as I have." (As he said this, he showed his hands and feet.)

In their joy they didn't dare believe and were still astonished. So he said to them, "Have you anything to eat?" and they gave him a piece of broiled fish. He took it and ate it before them.

Then Jesus said to them, "Remember the words I spoke to you when I was still with you: Everything written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms had to be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.

And he went on, "You see what was written: the Messiah had to suffer and on the third day rise from the dead. Then repentance and forgiveness in his name would be proclaimed to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. Now you shall be witnesses to this."

Commentary

The two missionaries from Emmaus arrive back in Jerusalem to find the other disciples in the same ferment of excitement as themselves. "Yes, it is true. The Lord is risen! He has appeared to Simon." These were the words that greeted our travelers. What must have been their wonder, amazement, awe! Let's pray for the grace of Easter, to know the joy they felt when suddenly Jesus was there among them. They touched him and saw him eat. He taught them to understand that what they had lived through was not a bitter tragedy, an appalling disaster, but God's commitment to recreate the world in the only way that it can be done, from the inside and together.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (SPECIAL PROCEEDINGS/FAMILY COURT)—Filiation of illegitimate children—The filiation of illegitimate children, like legitimate children, is established by (1) the record of birth appearing in the civil register or a final judgment; or (2) an admission of legitimate filiation in a public document or a private handwritten instrument and signed by the parent concerned. In the absence thereof, filiation shall be proved by (1) the open and continuous possession of the status of an illegitimate child; or (2) any other means allowed by the Rules of Court and special laws. The due recognition of an illegitimate child in a record of birth, a will, a statement before a court of record, or in any authentic writing is, in itself, a consummated act of acknowledgement of the child, and no further court action is required. In fact, any authentic writing is treated not just a ground for compulsory recognition; it is in itself a voluntary recognition that does not require a separate action for judicial approval. Where, instead, a claim for recognition is predicated on other evidence merely tending to prove paternity, i.e., outside of a record of birth, a will, a statement before a court of record or an authentic writing, judicial action within the applicable statute of limitations is essential in order to establish the child's acknowledgment. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Vitug, Third Division, De Jesus v. Estate of decedent Gamboa, G.R. No. 142877, October 2, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Palawan governor faces raps for overspending

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE COMMISSION on Elections yesterday ordered the filing of criminal charges against Palawan Gov. Mario Joel Reyes after finding him culpable for overspending during the last election.

Reyes himself was believed to have provided the evidence against himself when he submitted a statement of expenditures and contributions which showed that he spent more than the allowed P3 per registered voter in the province.

The Comelec said it found prima facie evidence against Reyes, who edged former Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn in the gubernatorial race, for exceeding by P558,613 the allowable campaign fund for a candidate supported by a political party.

In a resolution promulgated Tuesday, the Comelec en banc ordered the law department to prosecute Reyes before the regional trial court of Puerto Princesa City.

Reyes insisted that he ran as an independent gubernatorial candidate and was allowed under the Omnibus Election Code to spend P5 per voter or P1.65 million for his campaign. Reyes spent P1.55 million, according to his post-election statement.

The Comelec, however, said it "stretches the limits of credibility" to insist that Reyes did not solicit or enjoy financial support from political parties because he ran and beat "established names in Palawan politics."

Party leader

The Comelec dismissed Reyes' pronouncement that he ran as an independent candidate because his sample ballots, flyers and press briefings all identified him as the official candidate of Lakas-NUCD-UMDP.

Records also showed that Reyes was in fact the designated party leader in Palawan who was authorized to sign the nominations of party candidates in the province.

Jose Balbuena, chief of the Comelec law department, said Reyes, if found guilty, faces a prison term of up to six years, dismissal from the government service and loss of his right to suffrage.

If convicted, Reyes will not be eligible for probation but he can post bail during his trial, Balbuena said. The Comelec is expected to file the case in Puerto Princesa within the week.

The criminal case against Reyes stemmed from Hagedorn's complaint that he had overspent during the election.

Hagedorn had also sought a revision of ballots that could lead to a recount of votes cast for the gubernatorial candidates but the Comelec has yet to decide on this.

In his complaint, Hagedorn said Reyes submitted to the Comelec his Statement of Election Contributions and Expenditures wherein he admitted that he spent P1,547,047.05 for his election. That was equivalent to almost P4.70 for each of the province's registered 329,478 voters.

Hagedorn said Reyes exceeded the spending limit by P558,613.05. He said that as the official candidate of the Lakas-NUCD, he was entitled to spend only P3 per voter.

Independent

In his defense, Reyes said the P3 per voter limit did not apply to him since he should be considered as an independent candidate. And therefore entitled to a P5/voter limit.

Reyes said he ran as an independent and submitted certifications from Lakas-NUCD and the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi) that he did not receive financial assistance from these parties.

However, the Comelec dismissed his defense. It cited his certificate of candidacy, the certificates of his nomination and acceptance as official candidate of both Lakas-NUCD and Kampi, and his own statement of contributions and expenditures.

Hagedorn alleged that during the campaign, Reyes presented himself as the official candidate of Lakas-NUCD and Kampi; that he never presented himself as an independent candidate; that he was designated the provincial chairman of the party and as such, signed and executed the certificates of nomination and acceptance of all party candidates in the province.

The Comelec said: "A closer scrutiny of the provision limiting campaign expenditures reveals that it can include a situation where an independent candidate is supported by a political party and such candidate will be covered by the P3 limit, because he or she will not fall under the category of 'a candidate without a political party and without support from a political party.'"

Moreover, the Comelec resolution said it's law department correctly found that Reyes "miserably failed to prove that he is indeed an independent candidate" because the records of the case is "replete with evidence" that he was the official candidate of Lakas-NUCD.

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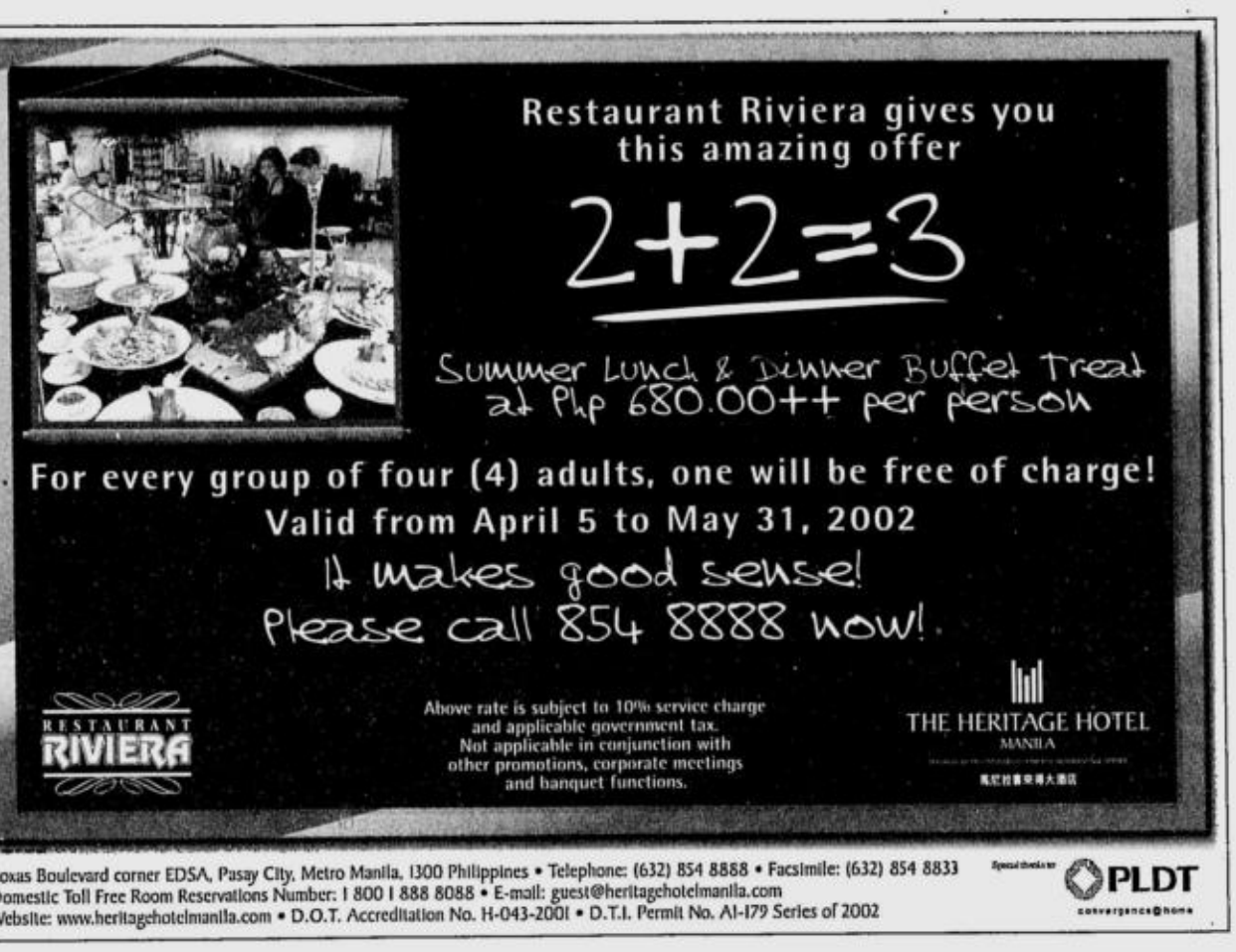

SC upholds slain poll exec's appointment

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE SUPREME Court yesterday upheld the legality of the appointment of a murdered official of the Commission on Elections in a case stemming from a complaint filed by the woman who is now accused of her murder.

The tribunal also upheld the constitutionality of the appointment of Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo and of the two other commissioners, all of whom had been bypassed six times by the congressional Commission on Appointments.

The Supreme Court justices unanimously recognized the legality of Benipayo's remaining in office as well as the appointments of Commissioners Resurrection Borra and Florentino Tuason.

The SC also upheld the legality of Velma Cinco's appointment as director of the Comelec's education and information department.

The justices junked for lack of merit a petition for prohibition and injunction filed by Angelina G. Matibag who had sought Benipayo's ouster after the latter reassigned her to another post—from acting director of the EID to the law department—in April 2001.

Cinco was assigned as EID officer-in-charge.

On Nov. 20, Cinco was killed and her son was wounded in an ambush in Sta. Ana, Manila. Investigators of the National Bureau of Investigation later pointed to Matibag as the mastermind.

Matibag has denied the allegation and has ignored invitations by the NBI for questioning.

The SC said an ad interim appointment, which is issued while Congress is not in session, "is a permanent appointment because it takes effect immediately and can no longer be withdrawn by the President once the appointee has qualified into office."

Its being subject to confirmation by the CA did not alter its permanent character, the SC said.

"The Constitution itself makes an ad interim appointment permanent in character by making it effective until disapproved by the CA or until the next adjournment of Congress," the SC said.

Matibag's petition was anchored on the legality of Benipayo's authority to reassign her and to discharge the functions of office without being confirmed by the CA.

Sex case victim says she can wait for final victory

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Juliet Yee, who won a landmark sexual harassment case against a government official, yesterday said she can afford to wait until the Supreme Court makes a final decision on the conviction of her assailant, Dr. Rico Jacutin.

"If that's how the process goes, then let it be. I am the victim and I already won the case. As I have said before, if I win or lose, it wouldn't matter anymore. The more important thing for me is I have come out," Yee said in an interview.

But Reynaldo Llego, Yee's lawyer, said that although Jacutin could still file a motion for reconsideration, the Supreme Court ruling affirming Jacutin's conviction by the Sandiganbayan was as good as final.

"It's very seldom that the Supreme Court reverses itself. Unless Dr. Jacutin can find a new argument, which I doubt," Llego said.

In 1996, Yee filed a complaint against Jacutin, a former city health officer of Cagayan de Oro City, accusing him of harassing her sexually while ostensibly conducting a physical examination inside the government official's car.

Yee, who had just finished a nursing course, was applying for a job at the city health office in Cagayan de Oro.

In 1999, the Sandiganbayan found Jacutin guilty and sentenced him to six months' imprisonment. The court also ordered him to indemnify Yee.

Jacutin appealed the ruling to the Supreme Court.

On March 6, the high tribunal sustained the decision of the anti-graft court.

Manuel Singson, Jacutin's lawyer, said he would file a motion for reconsideration but claimed he was still waiting for the copy of the Supreme Court's March 6 ruling.

Yee and her lawyers received their copies on March 25.

"Normally, we should be getting our copies at the same time. We don't know why the other party received its copy earlier," Singson said in a phone interview.

Yee said Jacutin's planned appeal could be a mere strategy to delay the imposition of the sentence.

"I hope it would not take forever before Dr. Jacutin is jailed," she said.

Llego said that once Jacutin's camp files its motion for reconsideration, he would file a countermotion to oppose it. ***Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

CONSUMER & OIL PRICE WATCH

-Private Sector-

90 CENTAVOS OIL PRICE INCREASE EXPECTED THIS MONTH

The projected average oil price increase for April is 90 centavos per liter, after deducting the "over recovery" balance of 45 centavos (P1.35 less 45 centavos in March) that the oil companies owe the consumer.

We suggest that the oil price increase be staggered in two equal increases of 45 centavos on April 13th and the balance on April 27th.

The price increase is due to the average $3.94 increase in crude price, from $19.02 in February to $22.96 per barrel last March. On the other hand, the peso appreciated by 23 centavos, from P51.29 in February to P51.06 in March.

We will meet with Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr., the three oil companies, and the new oil players to reconcile differences in computation before the oil companies can announce a price increase.

PRICES OF PRIME COMMODITIES REMAIN STABLE

We would like to assure the consumers that prices of prime commodities will remain stable despite the projected oil price increase this month because:

1. **We do not expect any increase in transport fares, shipping rates and hauling charges as there was no rollback when oil prices dropped last year.**
2. **The cost of imports in March is cheaper than in December last year as the peso appreciated in March by P1.00 compared with P52.00 in December.**
3. **Interest rates have gone substantially to record lows.**
4. **The Consumer & Oil Price Watch will work closely with the Department of Trade & Industry in monitoring the prices of basic commodities. Also, we will support the move of the DTI to convene the National Price Coordinating Council and the manufacturers of prime commodities to assess the impact of the oil price increase and the projected power rate increase.**

A public service message of:

CONCEPCION INDUSTRIES

RAUL T. CONCEPCION
Chairman

For comments or inquiries, call 844-8785, 812-6751 to 62; Fax: 818-6203 & 818-6503
Email address: rtc@CII.mozcom.com

Cocolife ready to face challenges of the 21st century

There is one thing that businesses have to constantly cope with – Change. This factor is a very unpredictable element in business and companies wherever they are should always be prepared to face the challenges that change brings.

The 21st century has brought about a lot of changes in the business landscape. Crises of whatever form and magnitude whether they be political, social, economic or cultural can have an impact on the businesses of a country. For instance, the Sept. 11 crisis which brought New York's World Trade Center to Ground Zero has had a negative effect on countries worldwide. The Philippines' problems with the Abu Sayyaf have left a big dent in the nation's economic progress.

Just like other Philippine companies, Cocolife has had to face a lot of challenges. Its advantage is that it is a veteran as far as crises and winds of change are concernedHence, strategic planning and execution is a major task for this reputable insurancecompany.

There are four major strategies that Cocolife has underscored to realize its Corporate Vision and they are customer focus, leadership in the industry, financial stability, and employee\ principal relations.As Cocolife's vision is to be the insurer of choice, it has always carefully mapped out its strategies and directions. This attention to organizational and operational details has enabled it to achieve its set goals and aspirations.

Compared to other insurance companies, Cocolife is relatively new in the business. However, it has, through time, grown rapidly and has surpassed the achievements of other companies with longer years of existence. This progressive growthhas catapulted Cocolife in an importantniche in the industry and is now highly competitive in terms of better economies and benefits.

There are concrete signs that Cocolife will continuously make it with flying colors in this brave new world. The first two years of the 21st century, for instance, have strongly manifested that Cocolife is headed towards this path. This has greatly enhanced the company's financial stability and the financial trend in Cocolife has been in the upward direction.

For a good start, Cocolife has already joined the elite circle of life insurance companies which have broken the P1 billion mark in total premium.

Cocolife's growth at the beginning of the millennium is also reflected in the increase of Cocolife offices nationwide. To date, it has 108 branches housed in 62 offices spread throughout the archipelago. This branch expansion meant the addition of more people, the restructuring of sales organizations into four regions and the setting up of corporate sales offices in Cebu and Davao.

To give its first and fourth strategies the

Creative ideas that translate into plans and programs and subsequently their strategic execution are the result of sincere efforts and hard work on the part of the Management Core Group of Cocolife . Seen in photo are from left: Loumel Maagma, Vice President; Elmo Nobleza, First Vice President; Artemio Tanchoco, Jr., First Vice President; Carina Corona, Senior Vice President; Alfredo C. Tumacder, Jr., President; Efren Yambot, First Vice President and Teresita de la Vega, Vice President.

COCOLIFE SALES ACHIEVERS

2001

DISCOVERY CRUISE

NOW ENROUTE TO THAILAND, MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE

Congratulations to all the achievers! For all the hard work, for your unrelenting vision to make it to the top... this is a trip you all deserve. So get on board for a luxurious cruise around Asia and feel the freedom to live your life.

TOP SALES PERFORMERS

UNDERWRITER OF THE YEAR 2001 — FRANCISCA LIGAYO

AGENCY MANAGER OF THE YEAR 2001 — FLORIDA CASTILLO

BRANCH MANAGER OF THE YEAR 2001 — JUAN CABBUAG

REGIONAL CHAMPIONS

UNDERWRITERS

	METRO MANILA	GREATER LUZON
1st	Alicia Nazareno	Mark Perry Gongora
2nd	Jacinto Esquivel	Shirley Marie Castillo
3rd	Teresita Sevilla	Mary Grace Indiongco

AGENCY MANAGERS

	METRO MANILA	GREATER LUZON
1st	Elsa Esquivel	Nancy Tandoc
2nd	Ma.Elisa Quevada	Nenita Cabbuag
3rd	Ramoncito Toledo	Alfonso Ligayo

BRANCH MANAGERS

	METRO MANILA	GREATER LUZON
1st	Ma. Cecilia Badaguas	Alberto Castillo
2nd		Irene Mendoza
3rd		Josefino Abrigo

REGIONAL ROOKIE CHAMPIONS

UNDERWRITERS

	METRO MANILA	GREATER LUZON	MINDANAO REGION
1st	Jacinto Esquivel	Mark Perry Gongora	Reynaldo Ortiz
2nd	Teresita Sevilla	Mary Grace Indiongco	Jean Gloria
3rd	Seminiano Bustillos, Jr.	Nella Sangcate	

AGENCY MANAGERS

	METRO MANILA	GREATER LUZON
1st	Ramoncito Toledo	Nancy Tandoc
2nd		Alfonso Ligayo
3rd		Perlita Gongora

BRANCH MANAGERS

	METRO MANILA	GREATER LUZON
1st	Magnolia Toledo	Gudelia de Guzman

STAR CRUISES

necessary focus, Cocolife has designed programs to make life easy and convenient for its customers, employees and sales force.

To improve overall operations, and keep abreast with global modernization and technology, Cocolife launched "Cocolife Goes e", a computerization program designed to enhance customer service, increase efficiency and productivity and reduce operating and customer service costs.

Cocolife has also launched Cocolife's "Best in Service Award" which recognizes the exemplary performance of its people in its many branches.The award is given to a branch in recognition of the teamwork between the sales force and the branch personnel. This is expected to further boost the performance of branches nationwide.

Another inspiration to its customers, employees and sales force alike is its quality service award manifested in the ISO 9002 Certification. Another feather in Cocolife's cap, the ISO 9002 certification has been awarded to Cocolife for three years now. To date, Cocolife still stands out as the only life insurance company in the Philippines to be certified as ISO 9002 compliant.

Quality improvement projects have also been implemented resulting in the reduction of turn-around time in releasing lapsed notices, shortening processing time of statement of accounts, leading to four percentage points increase in the persistency for regular business.

All these gains and the previous ones have not engendered complacency at Cocolife. Rather, they have become a challenge and an inspiration to forge ahead.

In an environment of constant renewal, Cocolife sees to it that it keeps up with people's changing lifestyles. Today, people have a greatly changed outlook. Cocolife has discerned that what people want is more freedom. They want a better quality of life. In a brave new world, they like taking risks with less fear and anxiety. They want to live their life the way they want to and at the same time feel secure that whatever happens they and their loved ones have something to hold on to.

Hence the "Freedom to Live Your Life" the way you want it is the theme adopted by Cocolife for its overall communication campaign.

The Cocolife song which bears the same title sums up the philosophy of this concept "Live your Life /with no fear of tomorrow... It's a beautiful life/ 'cause I'm free/ to be who I want to be. / Take the risk / take the chance / embrace life/ with its joys and its sorrows.

This has become a corporate credo. The Cocolifer now lives that kind of freedom - as he is encouraged to dare to be different and to dare to take risks. He no longer waits for things to happen but goes out of his way to make things happen. In other words, he has learned what it means to be free.

In its corporate communications and advertising campaign, Cocolife plays the concept to the brim. The visuals and text of print ads say it well and fully. The concept "freedom to live your life" is portrayed by three individuals.

One is a grandmother who says - "I am 60 years old. And I'm proud of it. There is something I learned all these years... you live life. You don't worry about it. All these years, I've left the worrying to Cocolife".

The second is a wife, mother and career-woman who says - " I live my life the way I want to. Free to be who I am. Wife, mother, career-woman. Free from the worries of life. Because truth to tell I leave the worrying to Cocolife.

And a male business executive and family man who says - "Life is about taking risks. It's not waiting for opportunity to knock but seizing it. When you live this way, you need someone by your side. I am glad I have Cocolife".

The concept of "freedom to live your life" is well said in the portrayals. It is a thoughtful and beautiful philosophy geared towards coping with a brave new world.

Given this corporate philosophy, Cocolife comes closer to its vision of being the "insurer of choice". As people need to face life's many changes, they have chosen Cocolife to be there for them to help them cope with life's vagaries. As one of this year's top performers of Cocolife succinctly puts it – "Just like me, I know that a lot of people are convinced that Cocolife offers the best package for a life well lived and a life worth living for."

BLESSING AND AWARDING OF TROPHIES

A blessing of the premises of the newly renovated Cocolife Bauan, Batangas branch office was held recently with top executives, led by Cocolife President Alfredo C. Tumacder, Jr. in attendance. As part of the day's events, a program to award agents for excellence in work & productivity was also held. Quest for Gold trophies were awarded to deserving agents. Photo shows awardees from left Alan Tauro, Jopy Torrijos, Lourdes Magboo, Aldorey Deza, Flora Deza, Liza Ramos, Florida Castillo, Emerenciano Ilagan, Shirley Marie Castillo and Albert Castillo.

EUGENIA D. APOSTOL *Founding Chairman*

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OPINION

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EDITORIALS

Israel's war

AMID an intensifying Israeli army siege on the headquarters of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's headquarters near Ramallah, in the West Bank, the Philippine government has tried to keep an equidistant position between the Israelis and Palestinians. Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. has issued a statement emphasizing that the Philippines is maintaining neutrality in the conflict. "We're neutral," he said. "We are friends of both."

That statement alone would have meant nothing if Guingona did not underline Philippine support for a United Nations Security Council resolution calling on Israel to withdraw from Ramallah and other West Bank towns through which the Israeli army has swept to hunt down "terrorists" in retaliation for Palestinian suicide bombing attacks in Israel. The resolution expressed "grave concern over the deterioration of the situation, including the recent bombings in Israel and the military attack against the headquarters of the president of the Palestinian Authority."

The Philippines anchored its position on this resolution, which was a safe thing to do. But a significant shift in the Philippine position is the qualification by Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao, who took issue with Israeli Ambassador Irit Ben-Abba. The ambassador had earlier told the Department of Foreign Affairs that the Israeli military sweep into the Palestinian-administered towns in the West Bank was part of the "war against terrorists." Tiglao emphasized that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was "more complicated" than a war against terrorists.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has tried to justify Israel's attacks in the West Bank by calling Arafat "the enemy of the entire free world." He said Arafat was "at the head of a coalition of terrorism" and "he operates a strategy of terrorism." But moderate elements in Washington, like Secretary of State Collin Powell, has dissociated the United States from Sharon's attempt to ride on the back of the American campaign against international terrorism.

The Philippines should have nothing to do with the hard-line Israeli position and should avoid falling into the trap of being identified with Sharon's operations in Ramallah, which are now directed at arresting and killing Arafat's chief aides who have all been tagged as "terrorists."

Sharon has given the assurance that Arafat would not be harmed, but he has also proposed a "one-way ticket" for Arafat from Ramallah to an Arab country where he may seek asylum. Arafat has rejected this formula. But neither his death nor banishment will ensure an end to the Palestinians' quest for their own state or an end to the suicide bombings in Israel. Such solutions would only further radicalize the Palestinians and fan the conflict in the Middle East.

Sharon's military solution has not only made a return to the negotiating table next to impossible. It has also given a cause for the Arab world, including the moderate Arab states like Egypt, to close ranks behind at least the call for the lifting of the Israeli siege in the West Bank.

A different campaign

THE CAMPAIGN against the Abu Sayyaf in Mindanao, which now involves both Filipino and American troops, is best delinked from Sharon's attempt to make the Palestinian-Israeli conflict part of the war against the al-Qaida terrorist network. Although the United States did sign the Security Council resolution calling for Israel's withdrawal from the West Bank towns, President George W. Bush did not put pressure on Sharon to stop the attacks in the West Bank. In the eyes of the Arab world, the United States is seen as tacitly supporting the Israeli military action.

Already, Iraq, the target of US military planning for a possible attack as a haven and promoter of terrorism, is considering an oil embargo which, if backed by other Arab oil-producing countries, could drive up oil prices. The Israeli action in the West Bank increases the possibility of a new oil crisis which always plays havoc on the economy of oil-importing countries like the Philippines.

Erap read the Bible last Holy Week

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

FOR two successive days, I interviewed former President Joseph Estrada last April 1 and 2. Before the Sandiganbayan cites me for contempt, I hasten to add that he looked and spoke like Erap but I cannot guarantee that he was really Erap. The Erap I interviewed at the Kapihan sa Manila last April 1, the day after Holy Week, was followed like a dog by his loyal follower Ferdie Ramos, so he must have been the genuine Erap, otherwise Ferdie could have smelled a rat. He knows how the real Erap smells.

I must say that Holy Week changed Erap a lot. He seemed to have become holy. He even had a white-robed assistant who was toting a Bible. Was he genuine or fake? Judge for yourself from this exchange:

QUESTION: Mr. President, how did you spend your Holy Week? *Nag*-retreat *ba kayo?*

ERAP: *Hindi!* Never! *Matagal ko nang pinanindigan 'yung* "no retreat, no surrender." *Kaya dito sa kaso ko,* never *akong* re-retreat.

Question: Then why did you fire all your lawyers?

Erap: Well, I realized they were all the wrong lawyers.

Question: How can they be the wrong lawyers? One was an ex-chief justice of the Supreme Court, another an ex-secretary of justice, a third an ex-senator, a fourth an ex-fiscal.

Erap: *'Yun na nga eh, puro* ex! *Di ba sa* school, *pag mali,* X? *Kaya puro mali sila.*

Question: *Pero puro* EX *din kayo*—ex-mayor, ex-senator, ex-vice president *at* ex-president.

Erap: *Apat na* ex *'yan. Buti nga at apat. Kung tatlo lang 'yan, e di magmumukhang bastos ako, dahil* triple X *ako.*

Question: You admitted you are Jose Velarde. Why?

Erap: To save my life. Remember, *ang hatol sa* plunder *ay* lethal injection. *Pag aaminin mo ang kasalanan, mababawasan ang parusa.* So *maaaring ang parusang* lethal injection *ay bumaba sa* half-dose *na lang.* So, *kakalahati lang ng katawan ko ang mamamatay. Buhay pa rin ako.*

Question: Are you in favor of Balikatan?

Erap: No! *Ayaw ko sa mga* Americans.

Question: Why?

Erap: Because they are the reason for all our sufferings and humiliation. *Dahil sa kanila, nauso rito ang* English. *At kita ninyo naman kung paano tayo hirap na hirap sa* English.

Question: What did you do during Holy Week?

Erap: I planned to do meditation but I realized I didn't need meditation but medication. During Holy Week, I had a highly spiritual experience.

Question: Spiritual experience? You're not the type.

Erap: Yes I am. I'm always under the spirit—alcoholic spirit. You see, I had a vision. I saw a bright light. Just like St. Bernadette in Lourdes. Like her, I could have been a saint. But the Sandigan spoiled my chance for sainthood.

Question: What has the Sandigan got to do with it?

Erap: Well, I had this vision. But I could not see the vision clearly because the Sandigan did not allow me to have an eye operation *sa* States. So my vision was blurred, very poor. And unlike Bernadette who knelt when she saw the vision, I could not kneel. Because the Sandigan did not allow me to have a knee operation. *Masakit po ang* knees *ko kaya di ako makaluhod.* So, for the first time in my life, I read the Bible.

Question: You read the Bible?

Erap: Yes, and I learned that the world was created during the day, not night. *Siya nga pala, ito ang* assistant *ko ngayon.* Since my spiritual awakening, *siya na ang* bodyguard *ko. Siya ang nagbabasa ng* favorite quotations *ko sa* Bible. *Basa* (Read)!

Assistant (Reading the Bible): The world was created in six days...

Erap: See? Six days! Days. Not night. *Nabasa ko rin ang tungkol kay* Moses *at ang pagpunta niya sa* Mt. Sinai where he met the President of the United States who was on fire.

Question: President of the US who was on fire? Who was that President?

Erap: *Si* Bush! *Basa!*

Assistant: And Moses saw the burning bush...

Erap: *Kita niyo na, nasusunog siya. Nabasa ko rin na nang nasa* Mt. Sinai *si* Moses, *sumakit ang ulo kaya binigyan siya ng* medication... *Basa!*

Assistant: And he was given two tablets.

Erap: *Kita n'yo na. Dalawang tableta. Siguro* aspirin.

Question: You must be referring to the two tablets containing the Ten Commandments. Do you obey the Ten Commandments? Especially the one that says: "Thou shalt not covet they neighbor's wife?"

Erap: Oh yes! I do not *kabit* my neighbor's wife! *Baka mabaril pa ko. Kaya nga* I always make it a point to look for someone who does not reside in my neighborhood. *Yung sa malayo nakatira para hindi ko siya* neighbor. I must confess, though, I sometimes *kabit* my neighbor also. *Dahil sabi rin ng* Bible "Love thy neighbor," *di ba?*

Question: Did you read the entire Bible?

Erap: No, no, no. *Masyadong mahaba 'yon. 'Yun lang tungkol kay* Moses, *mahaba na.* So *pinanood ko na lang 'yung* movie version. *Pinanood ko ang* "Ten Commandments" at "Ben Hur." And I realized that Ben Hur and Moses are one and the same man. And he looked like Charlston Heston.

Question: Well, I never dreamed you would someday be reading the Bible. You are a changed man. Does it mean you're running again in 2004?

Erap: Yes, with FPJ running against Gloria, with me as his vice-presidential running mate. So "Panday vs. Pandak" will be coming to your favorite voting precinct. Supporting role *na lang ako.* I will be a Mang Pandoy, *alalay ni* Panday.

Question: Can we believe everything you're saying?

Erap: Can you believe what I'm saying now? *Basa!*

Assistant: Today is April 1, April Fools' Day.

Missing

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I'M glad HBO showed "Missing" during the Holy Week. I saw it last Sunday, and it was still as powerful and moving as when I saw it ages ago. I hope they show it again. It is a cautionary tale.

"Missing" tells the (true) story of Ed Gorman, played superbly by the late Jack Lemmon, who searches for a missing son in Chile after the military coup that felled Allende in 1973. Gorman's son was arrested along with several other Americans by the Chilean military some weeks after the coup and disappeared afterward. Gorman, believing it is impossible for an American citizen to be harmed by an ally, is thwarted at every turn. The American Embassy proves no help, giving him the runaround, which brings him each time, as he tells his wife over the phone, back where he started.

But with the help of his son's wife, Beth, played equally superbly by Sissy Spacek, Gorman slowly uncovers not just what happened to his son but what happened to his son's adopted country. While murder and mayhem swirl around them—literally: people are shot in broad daylight and carted to mass graves—Gorman and Beth discover the American hand in the coup. And indeed in the aftermath, which includes the seemingly impossible, which is the murder of Americans. It is sanctioned by embassy officials themselves.

In a confrontation, the officials finally tell Gorman why they support the new regime: "We are defending our way of life, which **is** a good way of life." Gorman replies, "Maybe that's why there's nobody left out there."

I'll say no more lest I spoil things for those who want to catch the movie. Suffice it to add here that the epilogue says Gorman sued Richard Nixon, Henry Kissinger and the American officials in Santiago afterward, but that his suit was junked by the courts for lack of merit.

History has since refuted that lack of merit. According to declassified US government documents, a CIA cable clearly spelled out American objectives in Chile at that time: "It is firm and continuing policy that Allende be overthrown by a coup....We are to continue to generate maximum pressure toward this end utilizing every appropriate resource. It is imperative that these actions be implemented clandestinely and securely so that United States Government and American hand be well hidden."

It is easy to dismiss America's role in the Chilean coup (or indeed in Marcos' coup, also called martial law, which happened a year earlier) as an aberration, caused by bad judgment and by bad leaders like Nixon and Kissinger. But as Chalmers Johnson, president of the Japan Policy Research Institute and professor emeritus at the University of California, points out in his mind-blowing book "Blowback" (which deserves an entire column by itself), that isn't so at all. As recently as 1998, the CIA helped the Indonesian military foment riots in Jakarta to create a situation for that military to step in and "restore order."

As has become clear today, the riots in Jakarta were not racially motivated, as first reported by media, or an anti-Chinese reaction by the public. An Australian economist would write that it was impossible for mobs to simultaneously attack 40 Chinese-owned malls and spread over 25 kilometers without encountering a single police patrol. Indeed later, a commission appointed by B.J. Habibie would find the head of the "red berets" and the Jakarta Military Command directly responsible for instigating the looting of shops and raping of Chinese women. Both are beneficiaries of American training—through the Pentagon's Joint Combined Exchange Training program (shades of Balikatan!)—and support.

All this should dispel two powerful myths that have bludgeoned people into mindless acceptance of American military presence or intervention in countries like ours.

One is that Americans and American global policy are one and the same. Which is the source of that notion that if you oppose the second, you oppose the first; if you are anti-the-policy, you are "anti-American." As "Missing" and "Blowback" show, that is not so at all. Americans themselves are often the victims of their government's global policy. "Blowback" is the CIA jargon for the unexpected deleterious consequences of an action, which happens to Americans as much as to the subjects of the coups and sundry mayhem their government sponsors in other lands. What's there not to like about America—well, perhaps except hamburgers? On the other hand, what's there to like about its record of "policing" the world?

Two is the bigger myth that if you oppose American military presence in your country, you oppose freedom, you oppose democracy, you oppose the American way of life. Not so. America is a democracy, no doubt about that. It is the most democratic country in the world, no doubt about that either. It has a way of life other countries would do well to emulate, still no doubt about that. But what makes it so precisely is that Americans will never abide the things their government does to other people. The possibility that other countries will station bases and armed forces in any part of American territory is unthinkable. The possibility that other countries will poison American soil with toxic leavings is unthinkable. The possibility that the airplanes of other countries would cause death to American civilians—such as a low-flying stealth plane piloted by a couple of American hotshots did to several Italians when it cut off the lines of a ski cable—is unthinkable. Americans will never allow those things to happen.

We do not defend the American way of life by agreeing to whatever the Americans want to do to us. We defend the American way of life by not taking bull from anybody.

Including Americans.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Four-day workweek good for families

THE GOVERNMENT'S four-day workweek for its employees this April and May is getting brickbats for a number of reasons. One of them is the allegation that shortening the workweek by one day won't enable the government employees to travel around the country anyway, because they don't earn enough to afford a holiday. This argument runs counter to the administration's "holiday economics" picked up by President Macapagal during her recent visit to Beijing, which encourages families to go on domestic travel during the longer vacation weekends. Another argument against the four-day workweek is that the workers have to spend longer hours in the work place, reducing their effectiveness.

* * *

I am very much in support of the shortened workweek for April and May for a number of reasons. One is that bonding has become very necessary in our times. I sat in at a one-day congress for fathers of families three weeks ago and one of the problems that kept coming up was the acute need for dialogue and interaction among families, especially between fathers and children. Sure, the four-day workweek spells longer hours for the parents, but this will be compensated for by the three-day weekend during which the families can be together.

As for the argument that workers don't earn enough to afford vacations or travel, that's assuming they will go to prime tourist destinations. The beauty of the three-day weekend is that entire clans can now plan outings that shouldn't entail so much expense, such as visiting their hometowns or going to some inexpensive beach. At the same time, these activities will help resuscitate the economy.

As for those with more money to spend, a number of travel agencies have banded together under the name of Philtoa and are offering tour packages from Manila, Cebu or Davao to various destinations for as low as P1,050 on fly-now, pay-later plans. The idea is, as the Philtoa ad puts it, "Huwag Maging Dayuhan sa Sariling Bayan." Philtoa can be reached at Tel. Nos. 812-4513/817-4608.

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

* * *

I was in Paris last week to accompany my husband who was attending an energy conference. While walking down the street one morning, we ran into Senate President Franklin Drilon, his wife Mila and their children, who were catching the subway to the Louvre Museum. The Drilons capitalized on the Senate recess to take their children to France, the trip being a gift to their son, Patrick, who had graduated from the Ateneo High School. The way they were traveling on foot and via bus and subway, one would think they were just an ordinary tourist family. The Senate chief, dressed in rugged jacket and rubber shoes, had earlier attended the Inter-Parliamentary Union meeting in Morocco, together with Speaker Jose de Venecia and some other lawmakers. From Paris, he proceeded to New York to join other lawmakers in a dialogue with various Filipino communities there on the absentee voting bill, while his family flew to Manila from Rome.

* * *

Last Saturday, in Paris, the Drilons invited us to join them on a day trip to three places in Belgium in a rented van with a French driver. The first was Bruges, a beautiful and ancient sea port that was once the center of the lace and wool industry of the historic Flanders region. Drilon had once been to Bruges when he was in the Cory Cabinet, and he wanted his family to see the city, known as the Venice of the North due to its many canals and its link to the North Sea and considered as one of Europe's most beautiful cities. From Bruges we went to another old city, Ghent, and proceeded to the Belgian capital, Brussels, a very cosmopolitan city that's now the seat of the European Union. We were up from 7 a.m. that day and Drilon's stamina was quite amazing, as we wove in and out of ancient cathedrals, gothic town halls and crooked little streets.

* * *

A little past 10 p.m., after a quick meal in a side street off Brussels' beautiful square, the Grand Place, we headed back to Paris, only to realize that the driver didn't know his way back. After having driven for two hours, he had no idea where we were. Drilon, who was dozing off and on, suddenly realized, judging from the road signs, that we were headed for the Netherlands instead. He took the road map from the harassed driver, but couldn't make much of it because of the language and the dim light inside the vehicle. Most gasoline stations were closed and the driver tried to flag down some cars on the deserted highway to ask for directions, but was unsuccessful. Finally we found a gas station that was open and Drilon and the driver got down to ask for directions.

I smiled at the thought that the guy trying to make sense of the map happened to be the Philippines' No. 3 man. I kidded him about how much easier it was to run a highly fragmented Senate than to find one's way back to Paris. We reached Paris at 3:30 a.m. on Easter Sunday, giving us barely a few hours to catch a few winks and put our things together, before catching our flight home.

I have known Drilon for about 15 years now, but that episode on the dark Belgian highway revealed the man's very cool nature under fire.

* * *

Former Ambassador to Jakarta Ramon Farolan has requested this plug for the "Indonesian Night," or "Selamat Malam," to be held at the Blue Shade Rockwell Club tomorrow, April 5, at 6:30 p.m., organized by the Alaala Foundation, a non-profit organization of caring Filipinos in Indonesia and now in the Philippines. All former Filipino expats, diplomats and government people assigned in Indonesia and friends are invited to this special evening of Indon food, fun and memories. Damage will be P400 per person, with net proceeds to be used for Alaala's charity projects. For more info, call the Rockwell Club, Tel. No. 897-8310.

A conspiracy theory

SEPTEMBER is the month bar candidates most dread. For four consecutive Sundays, graduates of law (fresh or otherwise) are forced to face their greatest fear and their only ticket to becoming lawyers: the bar exams.

I took the bar exams last September 2001. Long before that date, I thought of writing about the experience. I had no special reason for doing so. Maybe it was just the anxiety of waiting for the first Sunday of September, the first day of the examinations, or the feeling of insecurity of thinking how little I knew about the law even as I was spending almost all my waking hours (18 hours at least) studying it.

YOUNGBLOOD

Tasyo, LL.B.

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

Now, late in February, there I was, a bar examinee anxiously waiting for the results and doing nothing else. It was around that time that I watched an intriguing movie starring Mel Gibson. It was the "Conspiracy Theory." And suddenly it occurred to me that I hadn't written about my momentous, make-or-break bar exams. And write I must because I sensed that, as in the movie, some things didn't go right. From my experience, I arrived at the conclusion that there must be a conspiracy in the bar exams and the public has the right to know it.

Consider this: Why are the exams given only in Manila and not in any other city? Are they saying that all other cities are not suitable because they lack the necessary facilities, have traffic problems, are not secure, are filthy, etc.?

Holding the exams only in Manila favors the elite, the rich and the powerful. Consider who can afford and qualify to study in those law schools in Manila (I mean the top three law schools, as they bill themselves). Only a few. And the exams are being held right in their own backyard!

How about us? How about those who come from the provinces and studied in never-mind law schools? How about those who had to support themselves while taking up law? How about those who had never been to the big city until the exam?

There are thousands of us—maybe half the number of those taking the exams. How can we be expected to do as well as they?

When we arrive in Manila, we are subjected to a number of different shocks. There is the culture shock, the emotional shock, the moral shock, the financial shock, the longing-for-home shock, the noise shock, the terrible-lodging shock, the what-is-this-food shock, the I-can't-breathe-this-air shock, the lack-of-materials shock because we cannot bring all our books, and other shocks! SHUCKS!

They are practically killing us. No wonder they are surprised when an "outsider," meaning one who is not from one of the "top three law schools," lands among the top 10.

Holding the examinations only in Manila is only the beginning, however. Why on earth should the exams be held in September? Did the plotters want the exams to fall during the month martial law was declared so that the examinees would feel the tyranny of the examiners? Or is it because September sounds better than, say, February or October?

The only rational explanation I can think of is that September is a very rainy month. Typhoons usually come in September. If we survive all the shocks during the week before the exams, they will finish us off on the first day of the exams. If not, then in the succeeding Sundays.

How will they do it? Simple. The conspirators know that we don't have cars to take us to and from the venue of the exams. We don't even have a *kareton* back in the province. We are on our own and we must find our way to the examination site.

Going to the site can be as difficult as the exams. We don't know the routes. We don't know where and what to ride. In fact, we may not even find anything to ride on.

Add to this the fact that there is a very high probability of rain on any given day in September. The torrential rains could inundate the entire metropolis in an hour, making the roads leading to the examination site impassable. When this happens, our chance of taking the exam is doomed.

If despite the lack of decent transportation, the heavy rains, strong winds and deep flood, we still manage to get to the examination site before the gates close, the conspirators will then unleash their next weapon: the cheerers. These are the most potent killing machines of the conspirators. Under the pretext of giving moral support to their friends, relatives, loved ones, fraternity brothers and sisters, they actually mock those who come from outside of the metropolis. They yell their best wishes only to their own kind, making us even more conscious of the fact that we are in an unfriendly territory. Their shouted praises and the hosannas they sing to their schools are so deafening and irritating to us, since they practically tell us that our chances of making it are slim. Those cheerers with their banners, shouts, clapping, laughter and gestures are killing us.

Our agony continues after we manage to sneak into the examination site. Numerous policemen and guards surround the place. Inside, NBI agents keep a tight watch on our every move or failure to move.

Which makes us wonder what needs to be guarded so closely by all those policemen, guards and agents. Are they there to prevent cheating? If so, then the bar exams must attract the most number of cheats. Similar security measures are not imposed in other licensure examinations such as those for certified public accountants or doctors. Is it because the examinees are presumed to be honest?

It is not difficult to see that under the pretext of guarding against fraud and cheating in the bar, these security personnel are there to intimidate us. We who are from the provinces are not used to seeing so many guards, policemen and agents around. Given the large number of armed people in one place, who knows when a gun battle will erupt? You see, we live in places that are more peaceful than Manila.

With all the fear and paranoia, it is almost impossible for us to concentrate on the exams. Fear is known to draw out the worst in people.

Another reason I can think of for fielding so many security personnel is that some of us might snap and run around exposing the conspiracy. This, the conspirators fear most. Thus, the NBI agents are there to silence anyone who shows any sign of divulging the conspiracy by accusing him of cheating, fraud, or worse, insanity.

The conspiracy does not end after the four Sundays of September. It continues until the results are finally released. Think of the six-month interval between the exams and the release of the results. Then think of what the conspirators could do during this long period, considering that all the examiners are in Manila.

Why it takes six months to check 3,000 notebooks is anybody's guess. The possibilities are endless.

Regrettably I cannot provide hard evidence to support my conspiracy theory. As Mel Gibson said in the movie, "A good conspiracy cannot be proven." It's like silent fart; you know it's there but the culprit almost always remains at large and cloaked in anonymity.

The bar exams are a big conspiracy? There can be no argument about it. Can I prove it? Nope! Otherwise, it would cease to be one.

Tasyo, LL.B., 26, is a CPA and now a lawyer. He teaches at a leading university in Mindanao where he also finished his law studies.

What about pedophile priests here?

WITH CHARGES of sexual abuse by Roman Catholic priests sprouting like weeds on the American media landscape, fertilized by even more scandalous allegations of decades of cover-up and denial by the hierarchy, reaction in this "only Catholic country in Asia" has been muted.

The few commentators who have weighed in on the subject sound mainly pained and unbelieving, with some attributing the scandals rocking the Church in the United States to the litigious nature of Americans or even to the money-grubbing motiyations of the victims.

Surprisingly, there has not been a comparative effort by the local media to dig deeper into pedophilia in the local Church. I would like to know, for instance, if any priest in the Philippines has ever been dismissed, transferred or laicized on charges of molesting young people under his care. And has the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines taken the scandal seriously enough to institute guidelines on the proper response to charges of sexual abuse by priests?

About the most direct response I have heard is the statement issued by Archbishop Oscar Cruz, former president of the CBCP. Cruz was quoted as saying he believes priests proven to be engaging in pedophilia should be dismissed from the priesthood. He has also proposed that seminarians be "thoroughly checked for tendencies to molest minors."

* * *

QUITE apart from its dubious scientific basis (Is there really a "test" that could accurately detect pedophilia early in life?), Cruz's proposal strikes me as half-hearted and indeed cynical.

The question that lies at the heart of the scandals in the United States, and which has caused many American Catholics crises of faith, is why the institutional Church chose to cover up and sweep the problem under the rug even as they knew some of their priests were harming children and damaging the image of the Church. Was secrecy and control more important than saving children and giving them reason to continue believing?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

The proposal of a "test" for seminarians seems even more deceptive since by some accounts it is in the seminary where many young men experience molestation at the hands of the priests looking after their spiritual and intellectual formation.

Years ago, in response to a column I wrote on the declining number of vocations in the country, a young man wrote to me recounting his molestation at the hands of a priest in the seminary. He told no one about his experience until, many years later, he got to talk with his former classmates and discovered that many of them had been molested by the same priest. "I believe it's sexual abuse in the seminary that has caused the decline in vocations," he wrote.

Assured that action would be taken, I gave the letter to a friend in the hierarchy, but that was the end of the matter. I don't know if any action was taken against the priest or to protect seminarians. I'm still waiting for a response. As a member of the faithful, I believe I—and the letter-writer—deserve a response.

* * *

READERS might recall a column I wrote on a recent visit to La Union where I mentioned dropping by the impressive La Union Medical Center in Agoo.

It took more than 10 years between the time the medical center was proposed and when it was finally opened for public use. And in that time, so many people—national and provincial officials, representatives of the European Union which provided the funding, as well as the people of La Union—devoted much time and effort to the project.

Playing a key role in ensuring that the medical center would be built in La Union was the late Jose Aspiras, who was representing the second district of La Union in Congress at the time the project was conceived.

Agoo, Aspiras' hometown, was among the worst hit areas in the July 1990 earthquake that devastated a large part of Northern Luzon. Among the major structures damaged was the Doña Gregoria Memorial Hospital located behind the Agoo town hall. So severe was the damage that the hospital eventually had to be demolished. Shortly after, the European Economic Commission sent a delegation to Northern Luzon and decided that assistance in the form of grants should be extended to the health and agriculture sectors in particular.

Upon hearing this news, Aspiras began making representations with Malacañang to include the replacement of the damaged hospital in the EU's assistance package. In a letter, Aspiras' widow Amparo said "it mainly fell to Congressman Aspiras to get the project going and lay most of the groundwork for its implementation." She also acknowledged the role played by the late Gov. Joaquin "Titing" Ortega and his successor, Gov. Justo Ortega Orros Jr., now our ambassador to Mexico, in ensuring the completion of the hospital.

* * *

THE PROJECT was delayed by technical, logistical and operational problems. But in 1997 bidding was finally conducted and the contract to build was awarded. The cornerstone was finally laid in February 1998. Opened last month, the La Union Medical Center is a sight to behold, composed of low structures sprawled across a landscaped compound, and boasting state-of-the-art equipment and furnishings.

Unfortunately, Aspiras was no longer around to see his efforts bear fruit, having passed away in 1999. I understand that a bill has been filed in Congress seeking to have the La Union Medical Center named after him.

"Above all his other distinctions and achievements, my late husband took greatest pride in being a son of Agoo and a pillar of La Union," wrote his widow.

The Passover of Sr. Victoria Miranda

IT'S Eastertide and the topic of Passover is still apt. Passover from bondage to freedom, from death to life. From slavery in the land of Pharaoh to the Promised Land. Later, Jesus' own—His passion, death and resurrection. What Christians call the Paschal Mystery. Behold the empty tomb. Rabboni!

These are Easter themes soon forgotten as people struggle to survive and revive their quest to find meaning in all the chaos. Most everywhere people are still going through their own private Passover. Easter remains a dream. In Israel, the Palestine in Jesus' earthly lifetime, where the biblical Passover Feast is very much a part of Jewish tradition and history, a grand true-to-life bloody "passover" is being reenacted before the world. Through the electronic and print media we behold the unfolding of gory events. When will the killing stop? When will they stop digging graves?

Speaking of graves, a grave story came out in the INQUIRER two days ago. Another one was discovered in Quezon and it contained skeletons of people who might have been victims of the senseless purge within the Communist Party.

Which brings me to our three-part series (April 26, 27, 28) on Sr. Victoria Miranda (a nom de guerre), a nun and intellectual who worked in the communist underground in the poverty-stricken countryside starting in the 1980s, and who later witnessed the aftermath of the purge that saw comrades killing comrades.

We received feedback on the series, mostly appreciative, on Sister Victoria's way of pointing at the cause (Part 3), of what she called "The Great Abomination." Unlike victim-survivor Robert Francis Garcia who wrote the book "To Suffer Thy Comrades," Sister Victoria was not a victim (but almost was) of the purge. But she saw the heart-rending hemorrhaging and took up the task of "cleaning up" so to speak and reaching out.

Why did we use the "as told to" format? Why did I not write a long feature instead? It was evident, after I had transcribed the hours and hours of taped

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

interview that Sister Victoria had a very distinct voice that had to be left alone. That voice would have been lost had I written a feature. We even left as is her switching between present and past tense.

I told her later that her byline could have held its own. My co-byline was there only to lend credence to what she had revealed and, if I may add facetiously, for all the bloody work I did to squeeze the story out of her and to smoothen out the sequence. Sister Victoria was pleased with the result, and I feel relieved.

You see, there almost was no series. At the last minute she wanted the portion on the purge "purged." I hit the roof. That was two days before deadline. I said, without that, there was no point in coming out with her story. It would have simply read like a nun's metamorphosis and romantic foray into the communist underground.

But she was no sweet, dumb nun. Neither was she a trying-hard ideologue. She had spent years in the underground as a nun on exclaustration while remaining faithful to her vows. She was a true-blue religious who wanted "to break frontiers."

After receiving from her an e-mailed note that said her story could go no further, I pursued her like I was the Hound of Heaven. She was on a bus to a convent retreat somewhere. I texted: "I never say die." I wanted to add, I have the tapes, the raw text and your rewrites, I'd be forced to use these whether you like it or not. She reconsidered. We had earlier agreed that she would have to go over the semi-final stuff, make the deletions and change the names.

For the regional party top brass whom she "did not love" and who engineered the purge, she chose the names Adolf (as in Hitler) and Xant(h)ippe, the name of Socrates' obnoxious wife. There were readers who wanted more, who thought some parts were *bitin*. But you see, not everything that was recorded was for public consumption.

Yes, I did ask her about the four "*labkabayanis*" of Lakbayan 1984 who were proclaimed "heroes" by their comrades, and whose disappearance was falsely blamed on the military. (On the spot where their bodies were exhumed, a photojournalist and I found a jawbone and clumps of hair that were left behind.)

Sister Victoria's passover/breakthrough echoed to me "My Life for My Friends: The Guerrilla Diary of Nestor Paz, Christian." Paz was a Bolivian, a former seminarian, a resistance fighter who left a comfortable life to answer the call of the hills. His diary and love letters to his wife were written in the guerrilla zone where he died of starvation while being pursued by the enemy.

Paz's commitment, someone wrote, reflected his belief in the radical "communism" of the Gospel, in the use of violence when necessary and the use of Marxism as a tool for analysis. Violence was accepted as the last means toward social change in an unjust society by Pope Paul VI in his encyclical *Populorum Progressio*.

"Unless this seedling nun falls into the underground and dies to her notion of being a nun..." Sister Victoria said. That was her idea of *kenosis*, the self-emptying of Christ.

"I've always maintained that there had to be some people in the churches who can do frontier mission," she confided. "You breakthrough boundaries to extend frontiers, the way Christ made that death-resurrection breakthrough."

Sister Victoria's underground experience has left with her "an unspeakable grief." Several times, during the interview, she broke into tears. She has gone through what she calls "the Pasch of the Filipino people." Which is ongoing, continuing...

Energizing the tourism industry

LETTERS PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

THIS has reference to the INQUIRER's editorial last March 28, titled "Exodus." The piece focusing on lengthened weekends and the four-day workweek for government employees serves to underscore the fact that changing mind-sets for tourism can only take place when programs are in place and thoroughly implemented.

The four-day workweek and the declaration of select holidays on either Fridays or Mondays to lengthen weekends are part of a general program that is being pursued by the administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to energize tourism and harness its enormous potential as an economic prime mover.

The four-day workweek is a modification of the distribution of weekly work hours during the summer months that creates some time for family togetherness, entrepreneurship, or personal concerns. During summer, when children are at home, time for family togetherness may be spent for travel, or to attend to children's health care or housekeeping. The free time can also be spent for small personal businesses that can augment family incomes.

As Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon has said, the revitalization of the domestic tourism industry is key to the nation's economic recovery as it generates not only much needed revenue but also business and employment opportunities for thousands of Filipinos.

The time modification also increases the public's access to government service. Business with government may now be transacted later than the usual 5 p.m. to as late as 7 p.m., or as early as 7 a.m. depending on schedules set by the government agency. Those in the private sector may now find time to transact business with the government without having to file for leaves of absences.

There will be no disruption in the operations of government departments, agencies and offices since the shifting of schedules ensures staffing during all regular working hours. Government units involved in frontline, security, safety and emergency services are excluded from the scheme to guarantee efficient delivery of services.

At the same time, the scheme eases traffic during rush hour as it allows staggered movements for government men.

Likewise, laziness is definitely not going to be a by-product of the scheme that was put forward by the tourism secretary. Hard work for those who choose the 10-hour, four-day work, is rewarded with family time and opportunities for self-improvement and small business ventures.

We also wish to clarify that the Department of Tourism has not sought the declaration of any new holiday. Rather, it sought the observance of select holidays on either a Friday or a Monday to lengthen weekends, and allow sufficient time for travel, whether for religious purposes, for vacationing purposes or other personal purposes.

For instance, this year, Bataan Day, which falls on a Tuesday, was moved to a Monday. This does not change the celebration of Bataan Day but will definitely stir up great activity for tourism and other businesses.

Energizing domestic tourism alongside the development of a national culture of tourism doesn't happen overnight. It will happen through a range of cost-efficient and effective schemes hitting as many sectors as possible.

—ARCIE C. SORIANO, OIC, Office of Tourism Information, Department of Tourism, TM Kalaw Street, Rizal Park, Manila

Errors in Junior Inquirer

MY goodness. Two significant errors on one page in your magazine for kids. Someone's not paying attention. I refer to Page 2 of your Junior Inquirer last Jan. 5.

The errors are:

1. You point to Tashkent, Uzbekistan and your line ends in the country below the Black Sea. That's Turkey! Not Uzbekistan.

2. In the rare book item you say Tommy Thumb's Pretty Song Book will auction for a likely price of £6,000 or P160 million. £6,000 is P450,000, an error of P159,550,000.

I send this as a constructive criticism. Kids need accurate information also.

—LEWIS EDWARDS, Uniworld Import-Export Inc., 3/F Pilipinas Kao Bldg., 108 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Libis, Quezon City

THE JUNIOR Inquirer editor says, "So sorry," for the mistakes.

Epson waste disposed properly

THIS refers to the news article last March 18, 2002, titled "Toxic waste dumping in Cavite, Bulacan assailed."

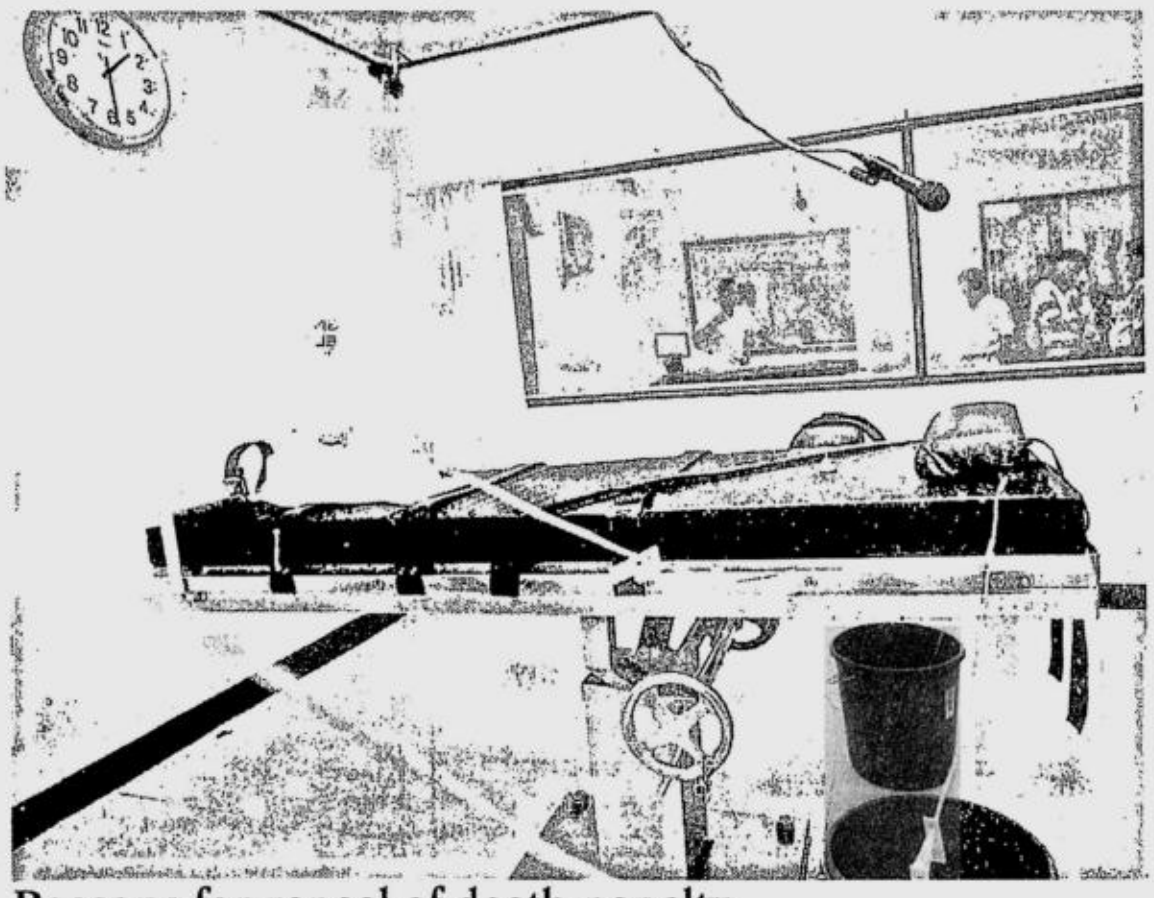
We would like to clarify the report that Haz-Serve Corp. is improperly dumping toxic waste from Epson Precision Philippines (five truckloads of spent ink and oil) in violation of Republic Act 6969 or the Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Waste Control Act of 1990.

We would like to make clear to all concerned that our company has no business relation whatsoever with Haz-Serve Corp. Our official transporter/treater of hazardous waste is JCAMN Enterprise and Inchem Environmental Inc. whose treatment facilities are located at Guiguinto, Bulacan. We have all the necessary documents and permits from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, showing proper disposal of our company's hazardous waste.

Everyone in our company as well as among our customers and suppliers was greatly surprised by the article. Indeed it had a very big impact on our company's reputation.

Our company is willing to sit down with you to clarify all issues regarding this matter. We believe in the power of media, therefore, we wish to clarify and correct this issue via media.

—MOTOHARU KOMATSU, president, Epson Precision (Philippines) Inc.



Reasons for repeal of death penalty

THE DEATH penalty law must be immediately repealed for the following reasons:

1. Many innocent men who are now languishing in Death Row are likely to be executed only because they are poor and could not afford adequate legal assistance.

2. Many death convicts, guilty and innocent alike, have already come before the Lord Jesus in repentance of their sins and have become true Christians and therefore, temples of God, both as a church and as individuals. The Bible clearly states that "If anybody destroys God's temple, God will destroy him..." (I Cor. 3:17) And this is not an empty threat. This is a curse pronounced on all who will cause the destruction of the Temple of God: the proponents and sponsors of the Death Penalty Law, the president who signed it into law, the members of the House of Representatives and of the Senate who approved and passed it and the entire society which did not oppose it when it was being publicly debated on.

The entire nation must face up to the truth and reality that only an unjust, uncaring, cruel and self-centered society can produce such abundance of disenchanted citizens, so disenchanted they have become filled with all kinds of evil spirits that lead them to commit heinous crimes.

We are all as guilty as the worst of criminals we send to jail, the entire society accountable to their victims and ultimately accountable to God and deserving of His wrath.

Let us all repent therefore and work for the repeal of the Death Penalty Law and be a Temple of God ourselves.

—DR. OLIVER R. TUICO, head pastor, SONlight Ministries, 1511 Instruccion St., Sampaloc, Manila

Cut! (Part I)

TWO Sundays ago, the INQUIRER had an editorial titled "Loi's ploy," commenting on Sen. Loi Estrada's proposal to castrate rapists and child molesters. Accompanying the editorial was an amusing cartoon, showing three men, labeled "rapists," cowering and clutching their groins. In front of them was Senator Estrada with an ominous smile, her left hand ready to activate a mini-guillotine.

The INQUIRER's editorial cartoon does a bit of pop psychology by depicting Erap sitting behind Loi with what looks like a helpless and nervous grin. That part of the cartoon tempted me to do a bit of distance psychoanalysis, probing into Loi's subconscious motives but no, I think that would have been too easy, so I've opted to look at the medical side to all this, the hard (pardon the pun) facts around castration.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

Notice that even without putting "castration" in bold print, it comes through rather harshly. Our radio commentators have coined a Tagalog word that's even more graphic: "*putol-ari*." Reading that word I'm sure you can hear the guillotine blade as it slides down: swooossshhhh, followed by a dull thud.

Horrifying, huh? It's every man's nightmare, or should we say, *bangungot*. But such images aren't quite accurate. Chopping off the penis doesn't figure strongly as a form of punishment, at least not by governments. Because men have made the laws throughout most of human history, they've been reluctant to actually chop it off except during the frenzied fury of war, the victors inflicting the final humiliation on the vanquished.

You do occasionally hear of enraged women taking the law into their own hands with adulterous husbands, one of the most famous cases being that of the American housewife, Lorena Bobbit, who in a fit of rage was able to amputate her husband's third leg. Her husband was able to recover the severed appendage, and had it sewn back. A real sleaze, John Bobbit went on to do X-rated films performing with his cross-stitched *pedrito* but his career was short-lived. He did leave another legacy: "bobbitize" is now a slang word used by wives to threaten their two-timing husbands.

But I digress. Let's go back to this proposal to use castration as a punishment. I haven't been able to look at Loi Estrada's bill so I don't know if she's actually proposing the penile guillotine. If she is, that would once again give us another "only in the Philippines" factoid to boast about. As I mentioned earlier, no government in the world chops off *manoys* as punishment.

Now it is possible that the proposal involves a procedure we're more familiar with, and I'm referring to what veterinarians do to pigs, dogs, cats. There are several medical terms to refer to the procedure: orchidectomy, orchiectomy, testectomy, gonadectomy. Among animals, the English term that's sometimes used is "neutering." Most Filipino languages use the Spanish term "*capon*."

All the terms refer to the removal of the testes, with the idea of eliminating the production of testosterone or the "male hormone". Without the testosterone, the "sexual urge" is supposed to disappear.

Let me digress again. If you're wondering why the terms "orchidectomy" and "orchiectomy" were coined, it's because "*orchis*" is the Greek word for testes. And if you're wondering, yes, you're right, orchids were named after the testes, so every time a man gives orchids to a woman, he's giving, symbolically of course, a part of himself. Look closely at the orchid and you'll understand.

I'm not through yet. Our Lothario can swear eternal love, saying that the orchids are a testimony to his love, "testimony" being derived from the Latin "*testis*" (witness), which spins off testicle. Apparently, the ancient Romans swore, literally, by their balls.

Okay, back to our main topic. In California and possibly some other states, chemical castration is used as an alternative. An injectable progesterone is used, actually the same drug used as a contraceptive for women. The progesterone has similar effects to surgical castration in terms of suppressing the production of testosterone, but the injections have to be repeated more or less every three months.

Does castration—surgical or chemical—really stamp out the libido? Will it put an end to rape? Tune in next Tuesday to find out.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

Who got money from drug lords?

THIS is in connection with the allegation made by Carina Agarao, chair of the Volunteers Against Crime, that some senators and congressmen received money from drug lords so that they would vote for the repeal of the death penalty law. This would not have been worthy of a response except for its high political morbidity content.

In the case of Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., he has been consistent against the imposition of the death penalty long before drug lord and gambling lords crept into congressional investigative consciousness. He has been steadfast in arguing that human life is sacred; that there is neither scientific nor empirical data to prove that the death penalty is a deterrent to crime, even as it is anti-poor in that the poor cannot afford the best lawyers. His success in pushing for the repeal of the law is not, has not and will not be unduly tainted by pecuniary considerations. His unblemished legislative record shows that. He cannot be faulted for having persuaded 15 other senators, including Senate President Franklin Drilon, to join him in his crusade against the death penalty.

Agarao, therefore, should name the senators and congressmen concerned so that they can be kicked out of office and/or properly prosecuted. Otherwise, her accusation is pointless and useless.

But even though she failed to name names, Agarao must still be supported in her crusade against violence and crime. Unless she has an ax to grind against the world, not excluding Senator Pimentel.

—LUTGARDO B. BARBO, chief of staff, Senate Minority Leader, 6/F Senate of the Philippines, GSIS Bldg., Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

Cebu memorial park project under review

ALLOW us to respond to the complaint of the Good Shepherd sisters on the Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) issued to a memorial park developer in Banawa Hills, Cebu City.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources Region VII Office earlier suspended the ECC due to strong opposition from the host community, which claimed among other things that it had not been consulted on the ECC application of the Banawa Hills Development Corp.

In August 2001, in response to the request of Cardinal Vidal and the Good Shepherd sisters for Environment Secretary Heherson T. Alvarez to act on the problem, he dispatched a team including a hydrologist and a geophysicist to study the project's impact on the Banawa Hills water supply.

The team's findings prompted the DENR to require the park developer to submit a revised site development plan showing buffer zones along nearby creeks as well as transfer burial plots located in these zones. The DENR also required the developer to regularly submit water quality analysis taken from these creeks.

The DENR will seriously look into the new issues being raised by the Good Shepherd sisters and take the necessary action against the officials found to be negligent of their duties.

—DEMETRIO L. IGNACIO JR., undersecretary for policy and planning, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

Row over renaming Panay Avenue

AFTER THEIR brief skirmish with Caloocan City Mayor Rey Malonzo over the fate of Andres Bonifacio's monument, officials of the National Historical Institute (NHI) are again involved in a controversy. This time, it concerns the renaming of Panay Avenue, a major thoroughfare in Quezon City, to Renato Constantino Avenue.

According to the NHI, the proposed renaming is not possible, since Panay "represents one of the three stars on the Philippine Flag."

This is grave and unforgivable historical error. Everyone knows that the three stars on our tricolor are symbols for Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. Panay is only a part of the Visayas.

What's with the NHI? Is it not the duty of this agency to "preserve what the past has had to for itself, and to say for ourselves what shall be true for the future?" Isn't Renato Constantino's lifetime work for the advancement of nationalism enough to merit having a street named in his honor?

—ERICK SAN JUAN, Suite 1402, 1st e-Bank Tower, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

Fewer days but the same number of work-hours

ALLOW us to clarify the misimpression that may have been created by your front-page news story on the four-day workweek.

The item quoted Labor Secretary Patricia A. Sto. Tomas as saying that the four-day workweek "meant less time at work." We in the public information office of the Department of Labor and Employment have closely followed what the secretary has said on the matter, and we have not heard her make such a statement.

Indeed, the four-day workweek will not result in fewer working hours for anyone. Work-wise, government employees who work four days a week will render 40 hours of work weekly—as much work as they can turn in under the five-day week. They will work 10 hours for four days instead of eight hours for five days.

Sen. Edgardo Angara's impression about a shorter workweek is also erroneous. With the four-day workweek in force, government offices will be open for longer periods since many employees will work from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. instead of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. There may be fewer employees around on Mondays and Fridays, but heads of offices will see to it that there will be enough people to carry the burden of work satisfactorily.

—QUINCIANO T. ATAVIADO, Information and Publication Service, Department of Labor and Employment

Stamping out fixers of DFA papers

I READ with dismay your article on passport fixers at the Department of Foreign Affairs. When I was passport chief in 1999, we tried to stop fixing, but the fixers are smart and fast. Hence, the continuing effort by the DFA against fraud.

In particular, I wish to warn the public of fixing operations at the CK Sy Bldg. in Libertad and its environs. The syndicate goes all the way to the public market of Pasay.

Mayor Pee Wee Trinidad was extremely helpful in 2000, along with then PNP Southern District Command Chief Gen. Antonio Cabigon. Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona and NBI Director Rey Wycoco authorized and supported our raid in Pasay in 2001, which resulted in the prosecution of several people.

The recent report shows that despite the government's efforts, fraud flourishes because of the big money involved and the market created by gullible people.

We therefore appeal to the public to exercise extreme caution and deal only with DFA employees inside the DFA premises. It may take longer but at least fixers are not given the opportunity to operate.

As always, in great and small things, "the price of freedom is eternal vigilance."

—RAUL H. DADO, Department of Foreign Affairs, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

Waste converter contract not yet awarded

THIS refers to the news report written by Gil C. Cabucungan Jr. last March 16, 2002, on the contract purportedly awarded to Hi-Tech Bioenergy Inc. by the City of Malabon to build a solid waste facility for our city, titled "P1.7-B waste converter project gets BOI incentives."

To set the record straight, we would like to inform you that Malabon has not yet awarded any contract in favor of the aforesaid firm, and if ever any award is made, it will be done in accordance with the provisions of the BOT Law and its implementing rules and regulations. At this point, Malabon is still in the process of reviewing and evaluating the proposal of the firm to determine whether it is complete and acceptable.

—AMADO S. VICENCIO, mayor, Malabon City

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

UN body grills Israel, Palestine envoys

UNITED NATIONS—The UN Security Council grilled the Israeli and Palestinian envoys on why their governments have failed to implement recent council resolutions demanding an immediate ceasefire and withdrawal of Israeli forces from Palestinian cities.

At the end of the separate closed-door sessions late Tuesday, the council agreed to an Arab request for an emergency open meeting on the escalating Middle East conflict. It was scheduled to begin Wednesday morning.

The Palestinians are hoping the meeting will result in council approval of a new resolution demanding immediate implementation of two resolutions adopted in the last three weeks—with a goal of pressuring Israel to withdraw its troops and tanks quickly.

A US-sponsored resolution adopted on March 12 endorsed a Palestinian state for the first time, demanded an immediate ceasefire, and called for renewed efforts by both parties to resume negotiations on a political settlement.

A Norwegian-sponsored resolution adopted on Saturday called on Israelis and Palestinians "to move immediately to a meaningful ceasefire." It also called for "the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Palestinian cities, including Ramallah," where Yasser Arafat is under virtual house arrest.

Syria abstained on the March 12 resolution, saying it was too weak, and boycotted Saturday's vote, saying the resolution didn't go far enough in condemning Israel. But Syria's UN Ambassador Mikhail Wehbe said late Tuesday he would introduce and support the new resolution because the situation had escalated into crisis.

"There is a grave situation now and there is more and more worse deterioration in the occupied territories," he said. *AP*

Arab League seeks ways to pressure Israel

CAIRO—Hardliners have mapped out a strategy that includes cutting off diplomatic ties with Israel and oil supplies to America, but moderates were unlikely to let such ideas dominate a planned Arab League foreign ministers' meeting.

Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak looked to the United States to move instead, sending a message to US President W. Bush late Tuesday urging him to "take immediate action that will stop—as soon as possible—the violent military campaign undertaken by Israel to occupy Palestinian controlled areas," Egypt's Middle East News agency reported.

The Palestinians are also pushing for tough action. Palestinian Planning Minister Nabil Shaath said Tuesday it may be time for Egypt and Jordan to annul their separate peace treaties with Israel.

"We've never called for that before because we were seeking relations with the Israelis ourselves," Shaath said at Arab League headquarters in Cairo. "We never called for anything which would go against the peace process. But today, Israel has destroyed every chance for the peace process."

Arab diplomats worked Wednesday to set an early date for the foreign ministers' meeting requested by the Palestinians to forge a unified stance against Israel's invasion of Palestinian cities and quarantining of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. Diplomats said a meeting was possible either Thursday or Saturday—talks were unlikely Friday, the Muslim holy day. Some of those who would participate in the meeting were in Malaysia for a meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference that ended Wednesday and needed time to travel to Cairo, where the Arab League is headquartered.

At a meeting Tuesday of lower-ranking diplomats attached to the league, Iraq proposed an agenda for the foreign ministers' consultations. According to Arab diplomats, Iraq suggested among other proposals that Arabs pull out of the US-led international coalition against terrorism.

While Iraq portrayed the move as a way to force the United States to pressure Israel, its motivation may be selfish. Iraq fears it could be the next target in the campaign; US President George W. Bush has labeled it part of an "axis of terror" and accused it of supporting terrorists and stockpiling weapons of mass destruction.

Iraq also repeated calls it made earlier in the week for cutting oil supplies to the United States; shutting down Israeli embassies in Arab capitals—Egypt, Jordan and Mauritania are the only Arab states with diplomatic relations with Israel; and giving the Palestinians anti-tank and other weapons, routing the supplies through Israel's neighbors like Jordan and Lebanon.

Libya, meanwhile, suggested Arabs withdraw their recent peace initiative to Israel. At an Arab summit last week in Beirut, leaders adopted a Saudi formula pledging Israel would be granted normal relations with Arabs if it withdrew from Arab land it seized in the 1967 Mideast war and recognized a Palestinian state and the right of Palestinian refugees to return. *AP*

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Muslim nations fail to define terrorism

KUALA LUMPUR—Islamic nations adopted an agreement Wednesday to condemn terrorism "in all its forms," but with qualifications that left room to defend Palestinian suicide bombers.

Wrapping up a three-day conference, foreign ministers and representatives of the 57-member Organization of the Islamic Conference issued a five-page statement which failed to achieve their main task—defining terrorism.

That, delegates said, was a job for the United Nations.

"It is not for us to define international terrorism for the international community," Iran's deputy foreign minister, Mohamad Zarif, said.

"It is for us to ask the international community to start a process of defining terrorism," Zarif said. "That process has started."

Divisions emerged early in the conference after Palestinian and other Middle East delegates rejected Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's proposal to condemn all attacks which targeted civilians as terrorism—including suicide bombings.

Mahathir said that attacks on civilians—whether carried out by the Sept. 11 hijackers, Israeli troops or Palestinian suicide bombers—should be seen as terrorism. He said, however, that the bombings were a reaction to state terrorism by Israel in Palestinian areas.

Growing anger in the Muslim world at Israel's military campaign in the West Bank and the siege of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat overtook debate on Mahathir's proposal.

In their final declaration, delegates agreed: "We reject any attempt to link terrorism to the struggle of the Palestinian people in the exercise of their inalienable right to establish their independent state."

It committed Islamic countries to work toward an international definition that would distinguish between terrorism and "legitimate struggles . . . against foreign occupation."

"We unequivocally condemn acts of international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including state terrorism, irrespective of motives, perpetrators and victims," it said.

The conference comes as the world's 1.2 billion Muslims are looking to their leaders to counter what they see as a defamation campaign since the Sept. 11 attacks, blamed on Islamic extremist Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida network.

"We would have liked to see the delegates picking up from the prime minister's proposed definition of terrorism, because that is a very fair definition," said Zulkifli Alwi, a senior leader of the youth wing of Mahathir's party.

"But realistically, I believe the delegates were constrained by the policies of their own governments," Zulkifli said.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar said that the members of the organization—the world's foremost Islamic body—had demonstrated a "political will" and had not disagreed over terrorism.

The organization is resolved "to combat terrorism and to respond to the developments affecting Muslims and Islamic countries in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks," the declaration said. ***AP***

Car bomb explosion kills 4 in Maluku

AMBON, Indonesia—A car bomb exploded in the town of Ambon on Wednesday killing four people and injuring 20, officials said. It was the first serious violation of a ceasefire deal signed in February after years of Muslim-Christian violence that left thousands dead.

The blast occurred in a Christian-controlled part of the port city, the capital of Maluku province, police chief Lt. Col. Noviantoro said. Following the explosion, a group of Christians forced their way into a government compound, setting fire to a building, he said. Police intervened and dispersed the crowd.

Dozens of grieving relatives crowded into Ambon's General Hospital searching for their loved ones.

"It was a powerful explosion," said Bagus, a police plainclothes intelligence officer who like many Indonesians uses only one name. "The perpetrators obviously had training."

No one claimed responsibility for the bombing. However, Muslim militants belonging to the paramilitary group Laskar Jihad have vowed to disrupt the peace process in the province of two million people.

Up to 9,000 died and tens of thousands were forced to flee their homes in two years of fighting in the archipelago, known as the Spice Islands during Dutch colonial rule.

Rival Christian and Muslim factions from Maluku province signed a government-sponsored peace agreement in February that provides for the disarming of militias and allows for the return of refugees to their homes. ***AP***

DELEGATES listen to the closing speech of the special session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers on Terrorism in Kuala Lumpur on April 3. REUTERS

S. Korean diplomat arrives in Pyongyang

SEOUL—A South Korean presidential envoy arrived in North Korea Wednesday on a mission to revive stalled inter-Korean dialogue and persuade the reclusive, communist country to hold talks with the United States.

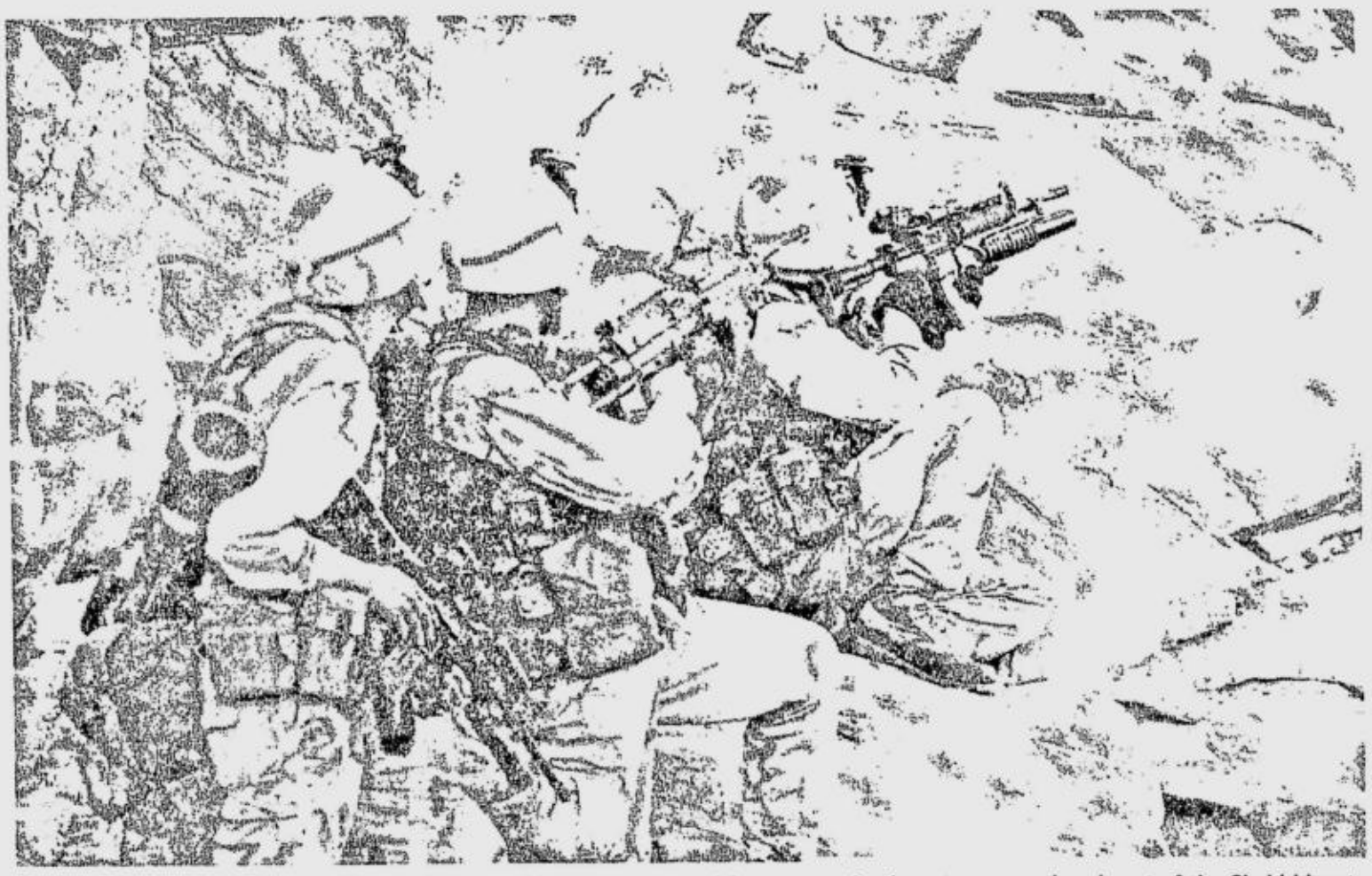
A special plane carrying the envoy, Lim Dong-won, and seven aides landed at Sunan Airport outside the North's capital, Pyongyang, shortly before noon after an hour-and-45-minute flight from Seoul, South Korean officials said.

Lim said in a statement before leaving Seoul that his mission was "to prevent the building of tension on the Korean peninsula and arrange a breakthrough in South-North relations."

Lim currently serves as a diplomatic and national security adviser to President Kim Dae-jung. During a scheduled three-day stay in North Korea, he will hold talks with leader Kim Jong-il and other Pyongyang officials. No journalists accompanied him on the trip.

Lim said his main North Korean dialogue partner would be Kim Yong-sun, a close confidant of the North Korean leader. Lim and Kim Yong-sun, a party secretary, were instrumental in arranging a historic inter-Korean summit in 2000.

The visit comes amid signs North Korea is ready to reopen dialogue with Seoul. After visiting North Korea last week, Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri said the North Korean leader was "very affirmative" about a South Korean appeal to revive stalled talks. ***AP***



AMERICAN soldiers cover another squad after making eye contact with an enemy bunker at an unexplored part of the Shahi-khowt mountain range where al-Qaida and Taliban forces are holed up. AP

Thai police seize heroin, speed pills

BANGKOK—Police crashed into the car of an alleged drug trafficker, seizing 30 kg of heroin and 700,000 methamphetamine tablets from the suspect's car, officials said Wednesday.

Sakda Saelee, 26, has been charged with drug trafficking, according to national police chief Gen. Sant Sarutanond. He faces a possible death sentence if convicted.

Sant said police, acting on a tip, trailed Sakda on Bangkok's northern outskirts late Tuesday before causing the accident on a bridge across the Chao Phya River to stop him.

Police presented a warrant and searched Sakda's car at the accident site. They found the drugs stashed in the trunk, Sant said.

Authorities later searched the suspect's apartment, where they uncovered another 800,000 methamphetamine tablets, he said. ***AP***

First 600 troops in new Afghan Army

KABUL—After a six-week crash course in crowd control, patrolling and emergency first aid, the first 600 troops of the new Afghan Army strutted their stuff Wednesday in front of interim Prime Minister Hamid Karzai and other dignitaries.

The men—who were drawn from every province and ethnic group in Afghanistan—are to be the vanguard of a much larger force that's goal will be to keep the peace and prevent rival warlords from plunging the country back into civil war.

"Today, after many long years, we have our own national army in Afghanistan. The task before this army is to defend its country, its people, and its religion," Karzai told the troops assembled in a dusty field in eastern Kabul. "I assure the people of Afghanistan, that this national army will work in defense of their rights and their security."

The troops, dressed in smart green camouflage uniforms and green berets and armed with machine guns, performed a demonstration roadblock and a patrol in which they responded to an enemy attack with a long burst of machinegun fire and smoke grenades, finally apprehending the bad guys hiding in a ditch.

The troops were trained by French, German, Dutch, Italian, Turkish and British instructors, and the equipment donated by the 18 nations in the International Security Assistance Force.

American instructors are to take a lead role in training subsequent battalions, said Flight Lt. Tony Marshall, a British spokesperson for the peacekeepers.

The men, many of them veterans of the war against Soviet occupation in the 1980s, were chosen by local governments and approved by the defense ministry of the fledgling interim administration. Because many of the local governments are controlled by rival warlords, one challenge is to ensure that the troops remain loyal to the central government and not their former bosses.

Karzai said he felt "a volcano of emotion" upon seeing the troops, and hoped the men would be the beginning of a force that "will stand on its own feet in defending Afghanistan and in fighting terrorism and all other evils." ***AP***

Ex-Argentine president faces judge

BUENOS AIRES—Former President Fernando De la Rua appeared before a judge Tuesday to answer questions over the violence that led to the deaths of 26 people last December and his resignation from office.

De la Rua, summoned by Federal Judge Maria Servini de Cubria, spent two hours in the Comodoro Py federal courthouse in Buenos Aires before returning to his country home outside the capital.

The 64-year-old former president, who was given heavy security protection, made no statement to the dozens of reporters gathered outside the court building.

According to local reports, De la Rua, who was elected in November 1999 but served out only half of his four-year term, was asked around a half-dozen questions by the judge relating to the December violence. ***AP***

Witness at Tommy's trial says police forced her confession

JAKARTA—A key witness at Tommy Suharto's murder trial said she was pressured by police to testify that he had stashed away hundreds of weapons.

The youngest son of ex-dictator Suharto, Hutomo Mandala Putra, known as Tommy, is accused of illegal weapons possession and masterminding the assassination of a Supreme Court judge who had sentenced him to prison in a corruption case. If convicted, Tommy could face the death sentence.

His trial, which opened two weeks ago, is seen as a test of President Megawati Sukarnoputri's pledge to clean up the legal system and crack down on powerful and rich Indonesians who have long escaped justice.

Hetty Siti Hartika, 39, managed a Jakarta apartment complex owned by Tommy. Police found the weapons cache there during a nationwide manhunt for Tommy, who at the time was a fugitive from an 18-month graft conviction handed down in September, 2000, by Judge Syafiuddin Kartasasmita.

The Jakarta Central District Court sentenced Hartika to four years in prison for helping the fugitive but she has appealed the conviction.

"Police threatened to kill my family," Hartika, who appeared to be in tears, told the judges.

She claimed that weapons had been planted and that officers had entered and searched the apartment before she arrived.

Hartika said she was detained for questioning by the police for 23 days in a male-only prison. She said police kicked her in the legs during interrogation.

"To stop the intimidation, I confessed that Tommy owned the weapons," she told the court.

Tommy kept shaking his head as prosecutors cross-examined Hartika.

However, her testimony conflicted with that of her maid, Sainah Binti Tasrif, who was subsequently questioned.

Tasrif said Hartika had long stored the weapons in the apartment but she did not know who owned them.

When the judge asked Tommy whether he had any questions for Tasrif, he said "I object to her testimony. (But) for the sake of the witness' safety, I will not raise any questions."

Lawyers say the trial could take as long as six months before the panel of five judges reach a verdict.

Many Indonesians believe Tommy will beat the murder rap because of a legal system that is ridden with graft and ineptitude and known to favor the rich.

Tommy's trial comes in the wake of several high-profile court cases involving top officials in Indonesia.

The hearing was adjourned until next week when it will hear from 10 witnesses, including Tommy's youngest sister Hutami Adiningsih. ***AP***

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QUEZON 'KILLING FIELDS'

Ka Roger to AFP: Get forensic experts

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LUCENA CITY—Describing as "fantastic and incredulous" the circumstances surrounding the "discovery" of another "mass grave" in a coastal Quezon town, the Communist Party of the Philippines challenged the military to refer to independent forensic experts and human rights organizations the thorough investigation of the so-called mass graves.

"Through independent forensic experts' investigations of the skeletal remains dug up in Candelaria and Mauban, the public will be afforded a more scientific and truthful analysis of the matter, instead of being fed with pure allegations and concoctions by the AFP," said CPP spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal.

Rosal e-mailed this statement in reaction to a query by the INQUIRER.

Rosal said 'the AFP's Task Force Makiling was ever ready to state that the skeletons found there were victims of the NPA's "witch hunting" yet was unable to adequately answer questions posed by journalists about the military's planting the skeletons themselves."

On Monday, military officials from the Southern Luzon Command led journalists to a pile of human skeletons from a common grave in remote Sitio Bagyuan, Barangay San Miguel, Mauban.

The military expressed the belief that the grave was one of the infamous killing fields of the NPA during its "hysterical purging process," a campaign aimed at weeding out suspected government spies from the rebel ranks in the 1980s.

According to the soldiers, they were led to the place by a woman resident of the area who had been having paranormal experiences.

The woman said a female voice had asked for her help so that "she and her companion can rest in peace."

Col. Efren Orbon, Task Force Makiling commander, denied the allegation that the military was just "planting skeletons, then blaming the NPA" for public consumption. He said they were just following the legal process as dictated by law.

Rosal branded as total lies the discovery of the mass graves.

"The circumstances behind these 'discoveries' . . . are leading us to believe that the military, in fact, had some hand in the deaths of the people or some of the people found in the mass graves," he said.

Rosal enumerated a set of questions, which, according to him, should be tackled by forensic experts and human rights organizations.

This includes the period and cause of death, clues to the identity of the remains, date of death and interment and the circumstances around their discovery, which he stressed "is very important."

"It is not unlikely that those remains are in fact victims of military salvaging," Rosal added.

He cited reports from human rights organizations indicating a significant rise in the incidence of salvaging and forced disappearances under the Macapagal-Arroyo regime.

He said, "military abuses have been significantly on the rise since 2001. Military terror prevails in many places in the countryside."

He claimed that there were militarist masterminds "in the campaign of vilification, which are working closely with the US government in the hope of tainting the integrity of the revolutionary movement, painting the revolutionary armed forces as "terrorists" and justifying the stepping-up of US military intervention in the Philippines."

However, Orbon in a phone interview Tuesday, said that based on the information provided to them by the residents, "we are very positive that there could be more of these kinds of common graves in the area."

He also dismissed the notion that the skeletal remains found in Mauban could have been former NPA members who were killed in encounters with government troopers, which could have been buried there by their comrades.

"I don't think so. Why is it that the grave was only four by five meters wide and two feet deep and the skeletons were piled up on top of another? The formation of the grave and the remains appeared that it was hurriedly done. That's not the kind of burial for a dead comrade," he said.

He reiterated that the information claiming the human skeletal remains were NPA victims had been provided by residents in the area.

"We have nothing to do with the information provided by the residents to the media. They freely volunteered the information themselves," he said.

Last month, the military also took some journalists to another mass grave in Candelaria, also in Quezon, where 58 alleged victims of bloody purges carried out by the NPA were buried.

Fake US treasury notes seized

BUTUAN CITY—Police confiscated 244 pieces of fake US treasury notes with a total face value of $122 billion from a businessman here yesterday.

Aside from the Federal Reserve notes, authorities also seized a fake certificate covering 7,500 tons of gold supposedly issued by a Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank, from Eutiquio Semiros Jr.

Semiros, 59, was passing through a pre-departure security check at the Bancasi Airport here when members of the Philippine National Police (PNP) Criminal Investigation and Detection Group and the Aviation Security Group found the documents in his possession.

He was supposed to board a Manila-bound flight.

Also found in his possession were four pieces of green card, a microfilm, an international immunity certificate, an insurance certificate, and a Federal Reserve System Guarantee Certificate.

During investigation, Semiros, a resident of Dapa, Surigao del Norte, denied ownership of the documents.

He said he was only asked by persons not known to him to bring the envelopes to Manila.

The CIDG said charges would be filed against the suspect. ***Ma. Kristina Cassion, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

DENR to start cloning native trees

FORT MAGSAYSAY, Nueva Ecija—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is starting a cloning system for a variety of indigenous trees to hasten the reforestation of the country's remaining 16 million hectares of forests, Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez said here.

The reforestation program will have to start relying on the genetic replicas of trees like the hardwood *apitong* and jungle fruit trees because millions of seeds, which take several years to grow and multiply, are needed to revive the forests, Alvarez said.

"We are not going to use seeds anymore because the supplies we need are by the millions," he explained.

He said the cloning system would be undertaken in a laboratory at the Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija.

A team of plant genetic experts from the University of the Philippines College Los Baños in Laguna will carry out the research and implementation, he added.

Alvarez did not say how much the project would cost, where it would be piloted, when it would be completed or if ethical issues had been raised against it by groups opposed to genetic copying.

But the cloning system was going to be an "instrument in saving the forests," he said.

A DENR report in 1999 said the remaining forestland in the country dwindled to 15.882 million hectares due to commercial logging, illegal logging and subsistence farming.

Importing wood had drained the country's foreign exchange by P14 billion yearly, another DENR report said.

Alvarez's predecessor, Antonio Cerilles, promoted the strategy of sustainable forest management, which did not enforce a total log ban policy.

"If we do not protect the forests, we will be mired in poverty," Alvarez said.

According to him, upland communities will be tapped to plant the cloned varieties. The DENR will provide the tools, he said. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

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Center for Culinary Arts, Manila

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Young Chefs Summer Program

April	• Junior Chef	(participation)	April 5, 6, 19, 20	8 am - 12 nn	P 5,500
	• Young Culinary Experts	(participation)	April 5, 6, 19, 20	8 am - 12 nn	P 5,500
	• Young Culinary Masters	(participation)	April 19, 20, 26, 27	9 am - 12 nn	P 5,500
May	• Junior Chef	(participation)	May 3, 4, 10, 11	8 am - 12 nn	P 5,500
	• Young Culinary Experts	(participation)	May 3, 4, 10, 11	8 am - 12 nn	P 5,500
	• Young Culinary Masters	(participation)	May 17, 18, 24, 25	9 am - 12 nn	P 5,500

Other Courses Offered

April	• San Remo Pasta Masterclass	(participation)	April 6	1 pm - 6 pm	P 1,900
	• Summer Grilling with Kikkoman	(participation)	April 6	1 pm - 6 pm	P 1,900
	• Authentic Chinese Cuisine by Lee Kum Kee	(participation)	April 26	9 am - 2 pm	P 1,900
May	• Easy Japanese Cooking with Kikkoman	(participation)	May 4	1 pm - 6 pm	P 1,900
	• San Remo Pasta Masterclass	(participation)	May 4	1 pm - 6 pm	P 1,900
	• Authentic Chinese Cuisine by Lee Kum Kee	(participation)	May 11	1 pm - 6 pm	P 1,900
	• Fundamentals of Professional Cooking	(participation)	May 17, 18, 24, 25	9 am - 2 pm	P 5,500
	• Fundamentals of Professional Baking	(participation)	May 17, 18, 24, 25	10 am - 3 pm	P 5,500

Reservation and payments should be made at least a day before the start of the course.
Fee includes: certificate, recipes and ingredients

All courses are subject to change w/o prior notice

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**Enrollment for the Diploma in Culinary Arts & Technology Management (June batch) and Certificate in Baking and Pastry Arts is on-going.
Classes start June 10, 2002**

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers while the rest of the country will have clear to partly cloudy skies.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Clear to Partly Cloudy	HI35° Lo 21°
Baguio	Clear to Partly Cloudy	HI 27° Lo 15°
Tuguegarao	Clear to Partly Cloudy	HI 35° Lo 20°
Laoag	Clear to Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Clark Zone	Clear to Partly Cloudy	HI 35° Lo 21°
Tagaytay	Clear to Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 20°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 25°
Cebu	Clear to Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 23°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/04/04/02

ROUNDUP

Mountain bikers alerted

LEGAZPI CITY—The head of the Civil Relations Group for the military's Southern Luzon Command has warned mountain biking enthusiasts not to traverse areas frequented by communist rebels. Maj. Jose Broso made the warning after getting a report that three mountain bike riders were fired upon by suspected New People's Army guerrillas at the boundary of Barangays Cada-cadan and Palale in Bulan, Sorsogon, on March 23.

Tony Macasinag, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

4-day workweek rejected

LEGAZPI CITY—Most government employees, especially women and those coming from the first and third districts of Albay, are opposing the four-day workweek program. They said this would force them to go home late to as far as Tiwi and Polangui towns. Provincial administrator Fernando Colle, however, said the scheme could not yet be implemented as the national government has yet to issued the program guidelines.

Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Bus passengers robbed

TACLOBAN CITY—Three armed men divested 23 passengers of a bus plying the Tacloban-Carigara (Leyte) route of cash and personal belongings worth about P40,000 on March 23 in Barangay Pijit, Sta. Fe, Leyte, police said. The robbers even told the driver, Jaime Tansingco, 43, to bring them back to Tacloban. One of the robbers got off in Abucay District, while the leader and his other companion disembarked at Barangay Anibong several kilometers further. It was only after the robbers had left that the passengers reported the incident to the police.

Vicente Labro, PDI Visayas Bureau

Grenade blast kills 2

TACLOBAN CITY—Two boys were killed when a grenade exploded in Barangay Macopa, Leyte town, last Good Friday. Senior Supt. Teodorido Lapuz IV, Leyte police chief, said Albert Pascualado, 8, and his neighbor, Michael Quebec, 9, were killed instantly when the grenade they were playing with at the yard of the Pascualados' house in Sitio Cabanguhan, Barangay Macopa exploded at 2:30 p.m. The boys reportedly found the grenade at the house, but Albert's father Roman denied that he owned the grenade.

Cynthia Borgueta, PDI Visayas Bureau

Kanlaon trekkers barred

BACOLOD CITY—About 35 trekkers, some of whom were said to be faith healers, tried to climb Mt. Kanlaon during the Holy Week, but the Kanlaon Green Brigade stopped them as they approached the forest line going toward the active volcano's crater. Errol Gatumbato, Mt. Kanlaon Natural Park superintendent, said the park management and the Provincial Disaster Management Team would lift the ban on trekking near the crater only when directed by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology. The Phivolcs has issued alert level 1 over Kanlaon in February after it monitored some volcanic activities there.

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

GMA in graduation rites

IBA, Zambales—President Macapagal-Arroyo will address the 981 graduates of the Ramon Magsaysay State University here today. She will also inspect the job placement center on campus. The RMSU has five campuses in Botolan, San Marcelino, Candelaria, Subic and Iba.

Cesar Villa, PDI Central Luzon Desk

8 Cavite fishers nabbed

HAGONOY, Bulacan—Members of the Philippine National Police Maritime Command arrested eight fishermen from Cavite who were using explosives in catching fish off Barangay Pugad here last week. Reports said the maritime personnel and the town's Bantay Dagat team were on routine patrol on March 27 when they heard six successive explosions. Police seized the suspects' banca and at least 125 kilograms of assorted fish believed caught through blast fishing.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Solar power in Guimaras

GUIWANON Island off the mainland of Nueva Valencia in Guimaras is among the poor and remote barangays in the Visayas and Mindanao that are beneficiaries of the Municipal Solar Infrastructure Project (MSIP) funded by the Australian Agency for International Development, according to a news release. The solar-powered communal water system in Guiwanon is managed by the Barangay Water Service Association. The MSIP installed 1,145 solar-powered systems in 435 poor and remote barangays in 52 towns in the provinces of Guimaras, Antique, Biliran, Bohol, Eastern Samar, Western Samar and Southern Leyte, Surigao del Sur, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi.

PAMPANGA 'FOOD POISONING'

BFAD: Milk given to pupils not spoiled

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—The Bureau of Food and Drugs said the chocolate milk products believed to have poisoned schoolchildren in Minalin town last month were unspoiled.

A BFAD microbiology laboratory report prepared by Carmina Parce, BFAD microbiologist, showed that their tests did not find bacterial growth such as coliform/fecal coliform (*E. coli*) and pathogens (*Staphylococcus aureaus and Salmonella*) on the samples of chocolate milk submitted to them by the office of Minalin Mayor Edgar Flores.

The report, a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER, was dated March 21 and signed by Parce and Rizalina Opinion, officer in charge of BFAD's laboratory services division.

Parce said there were no "observed abnormalities in odor and appearance" in the chocolate milk products manufactured by Alaska Milk Corp. (AMC).

The report also said the acidity (pH) level of the samples was "normal."

"Analysis of five other brands of similar products (UHT sterilized milk chocolate drink) were also conducted for comparison with the samples . . . The same results were obtained for test for commercial sterility," said Parce in her report.

She said more samples of the same product, with the same expiry date marking but different lot code, were submitted by the Department of Education to the BFAD for evaluation. She said these would be analyzed this week.

Despite the BFAD findings, Mayor Flores said the provincial board would push through with the scheduled public hearing for April 8 on the alleged food poisoning incident.

Flores said he had expected that the BFAD would clear AMC in the Minalin incident. He did not elaborate.

In a statement, Santiago Polido, AMC director for corporate affairs, welcomed the BFAD result, saying it validated the integrity of the chocolate milk products served to the schoolchildren.

Polido said laboratory tests conducted earlier by PBS Corp., a third party laboratory based in Singapore, on similar samples of chocolate milk taken from Minalin also yielded negative results as bacteria and other microorganisms were not detected in the products.

"The Minalin incident was really unfortunate, and we understand how the parents of the schoolchildren, the school officials, and even the local government officials must have felt when the incident happened," he said.

"AMC looks forward to once again taking an active role in the government's thrust to provide proper nutrition to schoolchildren in rural areas," Polido added.

The chocolate milk was distributed by the DepEd to elementary pupils in Pampanga as part of its supplemental milk-feeding program.

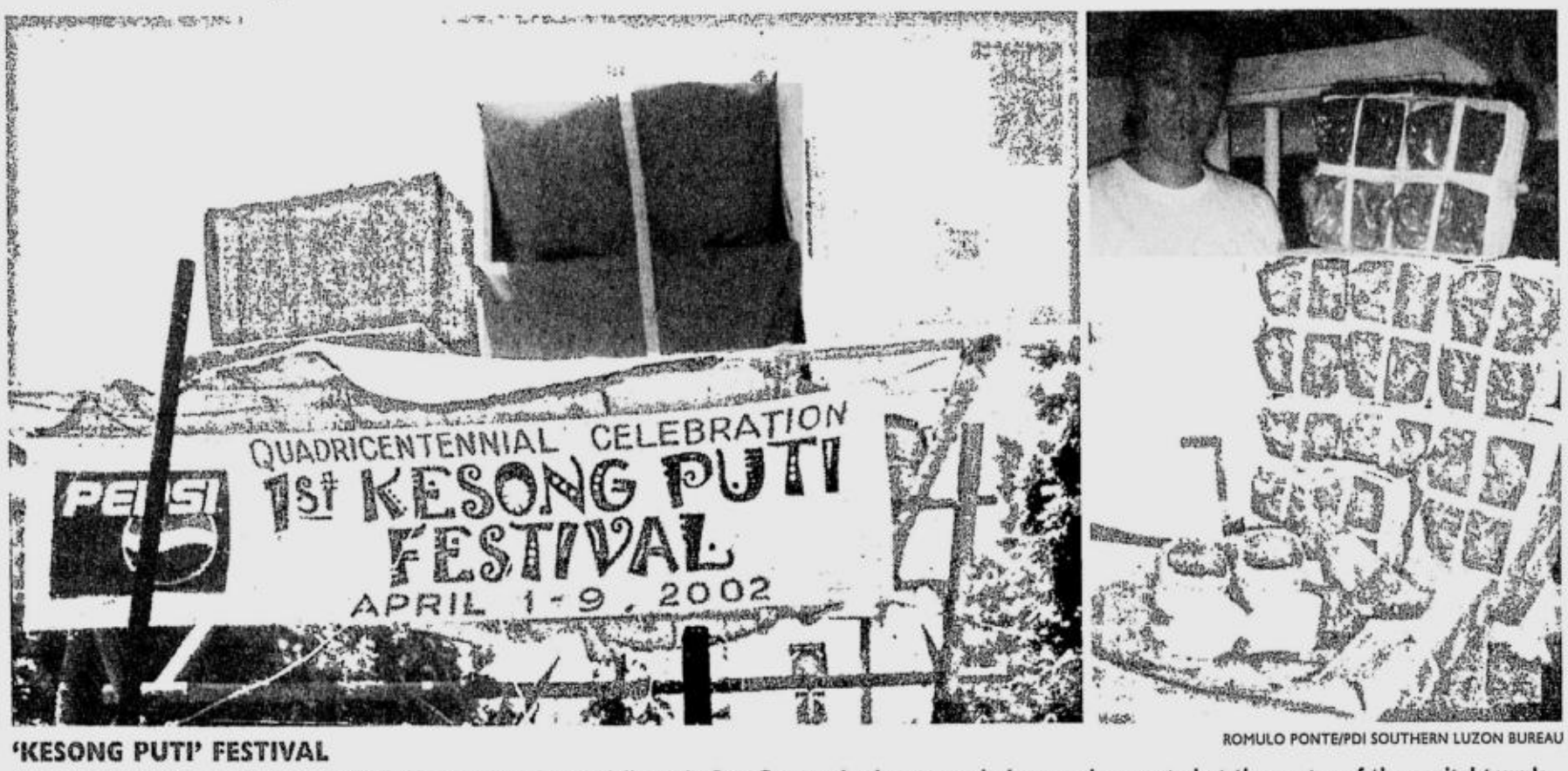
Senate President Franklin Drilon has been funding the nutrition program since 1996. The DepEd administers the program, in which milk is provided to malnourished children in public schools in remote villages in the country.

Earlier, the DepEd said in a report that out of 247 children sent to the Jose B. Lingad Memorial Hospital on March 11, only seven were treated for stomachache and vomiting.

The report said the cases of stomachache and vomiting were a likely result of lactose intolerance rather than food poisoning.

AMC officials said that in some cases, schoolchildren who complained of stomachache and vomiting were found to have consumed two or three bricks of chocolate milk in one sitting.

This could have induced the aches and vomiting, they said.



ROMULO PONTE/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

'KESONG PUTI' FESTIVAL
A giant replica of the "kesong puti" (left), a native cheese delicacy in Sta. Cruz and other towns in Laguna, is mounted at the center of the capital town's plaza during its "Kesong Puti" Festival. At right, a vendor routinely tends to her stall to sell the locally made cheese.

Abu Sayyaf in Basilan splits into 3

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Basilan-based members of the Abu Sayyaf have split into three groups, the military said yesterday.

Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu said the split was aimed at evading pursuing government troops.

"We gathered from our field commanders in Basilan that they divided their group into three and are now hiding. But we are tracking them down, particularly in the municipalities of Lantawan, Maluso and Sumisip," Cimatu told reporters.

Col. Alexander Aleo, commander of the Army's 103rd Brigade, said the bandits also divided their hostages among themselves.

One group had American missionary Martin Burnham, while another brought along Gracia Burnham. Another group is holding Filipino nurse Ediborah Yap.

"The three groups have reportedly merged in populated communities," Aleo said.

He also said there are "strong indications and information that the hostages have been turned over to other commanders."

Aleo said one of the reports indicated that Martin Burnham was transferred to Sulu, although he added that this was still being verified.

The Abu Sayyaf has been under siege from the military since the start of the Balikatan 02-01, a military exercise involving American and Filipino soldiers.

A series of encounters since the war games occurred in Basilan, but the military said none of the US soldiers was involved in the incidents.

Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Graduating students who failed in exams sue Baguio school

BAGUIO CITY—Members of the graduating class of the college of medicine of the Saint Louis University here failed in their written examination.

And to avoid repeating the year, they all have to take an oral examination, which, if they fail, would mean two to four months of internship at the SLU Hospital.

Two members of the SLU Medicine Class 2002 last week filed a writ of preliminary injunction against Dean Elizabeth Fe Dacanay to stop her from conducting "her despotically imposed version of the COWE (comprehensive written examination) I and II . . . and the illegally imposed additional two to four months clerkship duty."

The class also wrote Dacanay, saying the oral examination was "unfair, unjust, arbitrary and oppressive."

Last September, a few months after she became dean, Dacanay changed the college policy requiring only a written remedial examination, claimed Baby Nellie Olairez and Sheryl Rebucal.

The policy now included a written examination and oral examinations.

"When we entered the College of Medicine, the final test of graduating medical students was a comprehensive written examination. The re-inclusion of an oral component for this examination was officially announced as of Sept. 3, 2001. This policy has been made to cover us, the graduating students, who started our clerkship five months prior to the adoption of COWE as a policy," said 68 of the graduating students.

Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

US planes dumping chemicals, says solon

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Sulu Rep. Hussin Amin on Tuesday urged the Arroyo administration to investigate the reported dumping by US military planes of barrels believed to contain toxic chemicals, in Luuk, Indanan and Patikul towns.

Amin said a similar appeal was filed before the House committee on civil, political and human rights on March 23.

"The national government should conduct a probe into this (dumping report)," he told the INQUIRER.

He said residents of the three Sulu towns saw P3 Orion spy planes dumping the barrels on March 20.

"The residents are afraid to approach the barrels. I am also wondering why our military officials in the province did not retrieve the barrels," Amin said.

But Maj. Cynthia Teramae, spokesperson for the US soldiers, denied that there was such an incident. She urged Amin to produce evidence before making any allegation.

"He should first produce pictures to justify his claims. So sad that it was impossible for a spy plane to hover in Sulu and drop some barrels," Teramae said.

She said only C-130 cargo planes could carry and transport supplies.

Teramae even invited local journalists to see how the US military move supplies.

Amin said he was ready to produce evidence of the alleged dumping.

"*Ilalabas ko. May mga* pictures *kami* (I will produce them. We have photos)," he said.

Col. Danilo Servando, spokesperson of the AFP Southern Command, said he doubted the veracity of Amin's information.

"I don't think his information is correct. There is no US aircraft flying in those areas," Servando told reporters at the Southern Command headquarters here.

Rep. Etta Ann Rosales, chair of the House committee on civil, political and human rights, said Amin's report will be given priority as soon as Congress resumes its session this month.

Aklan protesters tell power co-op head to quit

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

KALIBO, Aklan—Controversy continues to plague the Aklan Electric Cooperative (Akelco) as about 400 protesters yesterday demanded the resignation of its general manager, Leovigildo Mationg.

The protesters, led by the multisectoral *Samahan it mga Mangunguma, Mangingisda ag Mamumugon sa* Aklan (Samma), demanded the resignation of Mationg and his supporters in the Akelco board of directors.

They blamed the officials for the huge debts incurred by the cooperative despite the "regular" payment of consumers.

The protesters, coming from at least 10 towns, carried placards and streamers accusing Mationg of alleged mismanagement of the cooperative.

They also criticized him for the three-day blackout that hit the province two weeks ago. The National Power Corp. cut off electricity in the province after Akelco failed to settle its debts to Napocor reaching P109 million.

The March 18-20 blackout in 17 towns in Aklan, including Boracay Island, and two towns in Antique.

Power was restored after a three-member National Electrification Administration management team took over operations of the cooperative.

Mationg dismissed the protest as a "well-orchestrated move" to oust him from his position by Rep. Gabrielle Calizo and Gov. Florencio Miraflores.

He claimed supporters of Calizo and Miraflores paid the protesters P150 each to join the rally. The protesters were also provided transportation from their homes to Kalibo, claimed Mationg.

Rally organizers denied these claims, however.

"Politics is the bottom line of this issue," said Mationg in a phone interview, adding that his rivals want to prevent him from running again in the 2004 elections.

Calizo and Miraflores denied that they were behind moves to oust Mationg. Calizo said Mationg was "muddling" the issue by using Miraflores and her as "scapegoats."

The militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) in Aklan warned the residents not to be used by politicians and "fake" groups for their personal interests.

George Calaor, Bayan provincial coordinator, said personal bickering was "shrouding the roots of the problem" of the electricity crisis.

Calaor blamed the government's policy of privatizing Napocor for the problems plaguing electric cooperatives. "The government is passing the burden on to local electric cooperatives and their consumers while it sells out Napocor to foreign and big business," said Calaor.

INQUIRER Southern Luzon
Editor Jun Bandayrel • Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

A waiting game for Marcopper victims

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
Boac, Marinduque

MARCH 24 was no ordinary Palm Sunday in Marinduque's capital town of Boac along the 26-kilometer stretch of the once-pristine Boac River.

On that day, residents of Boac and its neighboring towns commemorated the mining tragedy that has left an indelible mark in their lives.

Amid the gentle clutter of palms swaying with the wind, the victims converged not only to remember the disaster but also to proclaim their unwavering stand to seek justice and compensation for the death of their river.

Under the theme "Pananampalataya at Pagtitika Para sa Pamayanang Payapa, Masagana at Kaaya-aya," the people launched activities to relive fond memories of the river close to their hearts and to condemn what has happened to it.

"Even before the tragedy six years ago, the Boac River was already being slowly put to death by the operation of the Marcopper mines," said Dang Cheng, owner of a beach resort on the outskirts of Boac.

But the people then did not mind if it was toxic or not, because fish and shrimps always wandered in abundance near the banks for easy catch each time the water turned yellowish.

Cheng quickly added: "That is the memory of the Boac River of my youth, which I passed on to my children through stories."

She was watching her 13-year-old Ian, who was engrossed in sketching the lost river with color pencil. The piece would be his entry to the on-the-spot painting contest, which was part of the commemoration held at the town plaza.

On March 24, 1996, a plug in a drainage tunnel of the Marcopper mines failed, dumping million of tons of toxic copper-bearing mine waste into the Makulapnit and Boac rivers in Marinduque, 165 kilometers southeast of Manila.

The mines were then being operated by Placer Dome, a Canadian firm and the fifth largest gold mining company in the world with reported sales of more than $1.4 billion in 2000.

SIX years ago, mine tailings coming from a Marcopper Mining Corp. tunnel found their way into the Laylay Bay at the mouth of the Boac River, a fishing ground of local residents. FILE PHOTO

The "Canon Young Painters," composed of four Boac students, experimented on a transparent cellophane paper for a mural that depicted the disaster.

The young painters portrayed Placer Dome and Marcopper on both sides of the mural as evil Roman soldiers, taken from the island's Lenten Moriones Festival.

The tragedy was remembered not only through creative paintings and sketches but also through the "Padyakan Para sa Kalikasan," a bike run of more than 30 kilometers by two local cycling groups. The event started from the Marcopper gate in Sta. Cruz and ended at the town plaza.

Soon after the last biker arrived in mid-afternoon, an ecumenical Mass was held to start the commemoration program, which included the showing of "Sigaw ni Longinus," a video documentary on the tragedy.

Between solidarity speeches, messages in the same vein flowed through songs and melodies rendered by folk singer Jess Santiago and the Banda RR, the resident combo of the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement.

The melodic strains apparently seeped into the psyche of the small crowd that stayed till the program end late at night.

At one point, the music was interpreted by a pair of dancers. It roused and strengthened the collective sentiments of the affected residents and their supporters.

The Buklod-Marinduque Para sa Likas-Kayang Kaunlaran, a newly formed multisectoral coalition, urged the government and officials of the mining firm to address the "complete and immediate" rehabilitation of the affected rivers, and provide medical and financial compensation to the sick victims.

The victims include not only those living along the banks of the Boac, Makulapnit and Mogpog rivers but also those along Calancan Bay in Sta. Cruz.

The Buklod-Marinduque called for the permanent closure of the mine operations and the conversion of the site into an economic employment area.

Sword of Damocles

The head of one of the groups assisting the victims has warned that "a sword of Damocles" still hangs over the head of the residents.

Benjamin Kanapi, chief of the Luzon office of the Legal Rights and Natural Resource Center-Friends of the Earth Philippines, said the threat is in the form of dangerous active chemicals deposited in the land and water.

The threat, Kanapi said, is also in the "virtual certainty" of the collapse of structures holding back the remaining mine tailings in the Maguila-guila Dam and Tapian Pit.

Luisito Reyes, provincial administrator, said the provincial government and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources have entered into an agreement to secure the service of an independent foreign analyst to determine the extent of the damage.

He said the cost of the project was around $20 million and it would be shouldered by the Placer Dome. He admitted, however, that the project was still in the planning stage for lack of financial commitment from the mining company.

Rehabilitation

Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez already ordered the officials of the mining firm and its allied company last year to proceed with remedial works on the pit and the siltation dam because of the "imminent danger" it posed to life and property.

But the only remaining staff of Placer Dome has left the island since December without complying with the order.

In the battle for the rehabilitation of the Boac River, even children who were still small when the tragedy happened are standing up to be counted.

Dhia Carole Hilario, 10, spoke before the crowd during the ecumenical Mass and appealed for help to local officials and President Macapagal-Arroyo to immediately solve the problem.

Christine Perlas, a high school student, composed the winning piece in the poetry contest. Titled "Kalikasang Nasira (Destroyed Nature)," the poem reflects a deep and serious concern for the present state of Boac River.

The expressionist visual work of youngster Kenneth Olympia that bagged first prize in the painting contest shows a human form waist-deep in a zigzagging river, posed in a deep pensive mood while reflecting his fate.

Provincial board member Adeline Angeles said "the sufferings of the victims are made (worse) by the continuous indifference of the present government leadership."

But for Boac Mayor Roberto Madla, the bottom line of the battle is "patience and perseverance."

"Placer Dome has a grand design to outlive the patience of the people. Here, whoever gets impatient loses," he said.

Masbate taps barefoot rodeo cowboys to draw tourists

By Roly Embile
Masbate City

FOR the last 10 years, Masbate province has set the pace and standards in color, intensity and excitement in celebrating festivals with its Rodeo Masbateño.

The event is among 22 festivals held in the region yearly, mostly during summer, according to the Department of Tourism office in Bicol.True to the province's billing as cattle country, the Rodeo Masbateño Inc. and the provincial government have made the events bigger over the years, especially during Masbate's 101st founding anniversary last March 18-22.

The rodeo, which in Spanish means a place for gathering or trading cattle, has been institutionalized in Masbate. In the early 16th century, the Spaniards brought cattle and horses to the island-province.

Some local officials believed the rodeo might have even predated the American rodeo, which traces its beginnings to the 1880s.

The events

The Rodeo Masbateño has three major events—bull riding, calf roping and steer dogging (wrestling).

The toughest is the bull riding where the cowboy pits his courage, skill and talent against a bull adversary, which can weigh over 2,500 pounds or 1,130 kilograms.

Calf lassoing is an event that requires a cowboy to rope the animal around the neck, throw it to the ground and tie its feet. The feat is done on horseback or on foot.

Steer dogging, also done on horseback or on foot, involves going after the animal in a dive, pinning it to the ground by its horns.

One very interesting variation of the event is the *carambola*. Two or more cowboys go after the steer inside the arena. The first cowboy to grab the animal by the neck or horns earns the right to wrestle it to the ground and win.

Other competitions are bull whipping and load carrying.

All the events used to be participated in by male contestants only. Recent stagings allowed women, mostly college students, to join the rough and tumble events, except bull riding.

During its latest staging of cattle wrestling, kiddie (boys as young as 13) and *bading* (gays) events were added.

Rodeo King

There used to be more cows than people in Masbate, or so it seemed to cowhand Florencio Legal, 69, a living legend and undisputed rodeo champion in the country and perhaps in Asia.

Legal's fame in the rodeo circuit is backed by three titles as the national Rodeo King from 1971 to 1975. He earned the titles in the most exciting and most dangerous of the events, bull riding.

"I grew up with cows and horses, I even smell like them and I might as well die among them," Legal said in a language that is a unique combination of Bicol, Ilonggo, Cebuano and Waray.

In this year's Rodeo Masbateño, Legal wore a clown's costume but still reigned supreme inside the bull arena as the leader of four similarly dressed men whose primary task was more deathly serious than funny.

The team was tasked with releasing the wildly bucking, kicking and charging bulls into the arena and driving them back into their holding pens after each event.

Legal, barely five-foot tall, and his clowns made sure that both the men and the bulls inside the arena were safely separated after each bruising encounter.

There were also many funny moments during the show, which unfailingly drew both taunts and cheers from the packed bleachers.

When the clowns appeared, amid the blare of Glenn Campbell's song "The Rhinestone Cowboy" from the loudspeakers, the spectators warmed up. They laughed at several comic acts, like a clown hanging on to the bull's tail as the frantic animal dragged him in a cloud of dust.

Main rodeo event

Dr. Ricardo Acabado of the Bureau of Animal Industry and board chair of the Edwin Wagelie Foundation, said he has judged rodeo events in half a dozen areas in the country.

But, Acabado said, the Rodeo Masbateño remains the biggest spectacle.

NOT a clown act but a serious matter when it comes to steer dogging. ROLY EMBILE

"Perhaps, it can be said that it is the biggest rodeo in all of Asia since we have not known of any other this big in terms of number of events, participation and intensity," he said.

Recently, according to Acabado, other areas that have staged rodeo events are Ilagan and Echague towns in Isabela; Iguig and Amulong towns in Cagayan; Sta. Barbara town in Pangasinan; the University of the Philippines in Los Baños, Laguna, and in Malaybalay City in Bukidnon.

This year, 18 teams participated in the Rodeo Masbateño, of which 14 were composed of livestock handlers and stevedores from ranches in the province.

"This level of participation by Masbate has given them an overwhelming advantage over visiting teams because of their wide exposure to the sport and the deep pool of talents among homegrown cowboys," said provincial information officer Jose "Lalo" Zafra.

"Our cowboys here do not wear Stetson-like cowboy hats, leather boots, scarves and everything seen in Western films. Those who do are usually the wealthy ranchers and their guests," Zafra said.

He said the local cowboy, although not inferior in talent and skill to their American counterpart, is barefoot or wears cheap sneakers, a long-sleeved *camisa de chino*, a *bimpo* (face towel) around the neck, and a *buri* hat.

The rough-and-tumble intensity at the rodeo, although generally praised for originality and color, has also elicited adverse comments.

Ana Infante, 38, a *balikbayan*, said the animals and the cowboys were getting hurt in the competitions.

"It is alright with the cowboys getting hurt because they have a choice not to do it, but the animals do not," said Infante. She nonetheless took video footage of the events to show to her friends in New York.

She said she could not imagine herself as a cowgirl in a rodeo competition but confessed to enjoying it as a spectator.

Very young children should not be allowed to see the rodeo, she said.

Dr. Rodolfo Almazor, provincial health officer, said there has so far been no death or serious injuries during the competitions, only minor lacerations and sprains.

Excitement

The provincial government and the Rodeo Masbateño Inc. made sure that the breath-stopping activities would not start and stop inside the arena.

Colorfully outfitted bands of roving musicians woke up the whole city, playing the marching tunes of "Diana" at the break of dawn on the first day.

The grand parade of the rodeo teams, town contingents, government line agencies and local government units in colorful costumes, floats and banners regaled the spectators in the mid-morning parade.

Whetting the visitors' appetite for more excitement was the "Bull Run."

Gov. Antonio Kho said the local government had devised this year an action-filled game for the poor people, patterned after the *juego de torros* in the southern region of Spain.

But in the local version, the bulls did not charge at the runners in the city's main roads. Rather, it was the residents who went after the prized bulls.

"We released 20 bulls from eight corners of the city for them to chase," Kho said.

Prizes were awarded to the catchers.

The cool nights were the best time to hunt for souvenir items at the flea market and eat at food stalls at the *tiangge* outside the rodeo arena.

On the first evening, the arena was the venue for the selection and crowning of the Binibining Masbate 2002 and the Ginoong Cowboy.

Tourism potential

The recent introduction of light and fast seacraft plying the route from Masbate to Pilar, Sorsogon in the north and the big ferry boats coming from Cebu and the rest of the Visayas in the south has boosted business and tourism in the island-province.

Maria "Nene" Ravanilla, tourism regional head, said big strides were being made by the Masbateños so that they can cash in on the tourism boom.

"Restaurants, resorts and hotels in Masbate have applied for accreditation with the DOT because they see a promising future in the tourism industry," she said.

Kho wanted to go a step further in this direction when he started the development of his beachfront property in his hometown of Cataingan.

Earth-moving preparations have already started in the 100-hectare resort and its three-kilometer-long white beach. The place is beside the governor's 40,000-hectare forest resort that he is developing for eco-tourism.

"With Rodeo Masbateño as our main drawer and the rest of the province contributing to tourism, we have a chance of beating other exotic destinations in the country like Palawan," Kho said.

Yorac wonders why PCGG research chief 'monopolizing' vital documents

From page A1

practice. The source said he was doing it in his capacity as chief of research.

But Yorac said a "monopoly" of documents by just one man was risky. The discovery prompted the commission to order the computerization of all files and vital evidence with the PCGG.

Yorac said she was horrified to discover that several documents were missing, including the evidence proving the criminal nature of the Swiss deposits of former Marcos Energy Minister Geronimo Velasco. "We had proof (about the criminality of the Velasco funds). We just discovered that this box of documents was missing."

"I just heard about it recently and that's the reason why we are computerizing everything here, because we don't even know what we have and what we do not have," she added.

She said she understood that there had also been a boxful of documents delivered to the Commission but somehow lost during the time of PCGG Chair Magtanggol Gunigundo.

Asked who was responsible for keeping those documents, Yorac replied: "Who knows?"

The PCGG chief also found out that there was no centralized repository of documents, and that Daniel had been keeping his own file of vital documents which were usually off limits to other PCGG personnel.

"I found out—although I've heard it from others too—that Mr. Daniel has his own files, and some of them were not in the library," Yorac said.

"It was only he who understood his own filing system. I think that is not good for any office. I think the documents should be centralized and systematized," Yorac said.

YORAC: Monopoly of documents by one man is risky.

"What happens (if) he has a heart attack?" she asked.

Daniel's office

Yorac said she was even forced to check Daniel's office at one point, after receiving a complaint from Technoportals Inc.—the company that had bagged the P1-million contract for the PCGG's computerization—that Daniel's staff were refusing access to his files.

"The commission already decided to computerize everything. We told (Daniel) that we were going to start with his office, Research, the next day. He wasn't here, and his staff wouldn't allow the people from Technoportals to commence. So I went up to make sure that the work commenced because we were in a hurry about systematizing our records. We want to finish it as quickly as possible," Yorac said.

The PCGG library should be the central repository of all documents, she said.

"In the catalogues in the library, we are supposed to get documents quickly, for the purpose of examination, for the purpose of determining whether they could be used as evidence," Yorac said.

But she said she found out in January that certain documents from the library were missing and were in fact being kept by Daniel.

"Then he also took out records from the library which he did not return and he set up his own filing system. He removed the tags from the library so that made it even more difficult," Yorac recalled.

The decision to computerize was the decision of the entire commission, Yorac emphasized.

In a memorandum dated Feb. 4, 2002, PCGG Commissioner Jorge Sarmiento issued a "prohibition to bring out of PCGG premises documents and other related papers."

"The Commission is undertaking a computerization project of our library and archives to preserve the numerous documents that the agency has accumulated during the past 15 years," Sarmiento wrote.

"The present state of the Commission's documents makes it difficult for the lawyers and researchers to locate and retrieve the documents necessary for the litigation, preparation of pleadings and research work. Our documents are everywhere," it said.

"They are found in the library, are kept in the different Departments under the care of our officers and employees or are in the custody of some handling lawyers. In short, the PCGG has no complete central depository of all the documents and important papers necessary in doing our job efficiently," Sarmiento said.

The agency expects Technoportals to complete the computerization project by June.

Daniel is the longest-serving senior manager in the PCGG, having worked under seven PCGG chairs since 1987—from Ramon Diaz, through Mateo Caparas, David Castro, Magtanggol Gunigundo, Felix de Guzman, Magdangal Elma, to Yorac. He started in 1987 in the PCGG research department headed by then-Commissioner Cesar Parlade and also served as director of finance and administration.

Australian investigator Reiner Jacobi, who had previously tried to help the PCGG recover the Marcos deposits in Switzerland, had alleged in a 1998 intelligence report that Daniel was a possible mole of the Marcoses in the PCGG, to derail recovery of their assets.

PCGG unhappy . . .

From page A1

criminal cases by the Office of the Ombudsman," Carranza said, adding that the agency was particularly worried about the cases involving Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez, brother of former first lady Imelda Marcos.

"We are hoping for better coordination with the Ombudsman," he said.

The four sets of cases filed in the 1990s against Romualdez have not moved, either because the Ombudsman had dismissed them at his level or because Romualdez had managed to delay them at the level of the Sandiganbayan. In no case has Romualdez been arraigned.

The commission is worried, Carranza said, since there is a pending International Mutual Assistance petition to continue the freeze on Romualdez's Swiss funds, estimated at some $1 million (about P50 million).

Romualdez could ask Zurich district attorney and investigating magistrate Dieter Jann to lift the freeze on his funds, as the lawyers of Geronimo Velasco and Carmencita Clavecilla have done.

Meanwhile, PCGG Chair Haydee Yorac directed a review of the performance of the PCGG's Swiss lawyer Martin Kurer, and other foreign and local lawyers of the commission. The performance review of Kurer and all PCGG lawyers is standard procedure, and has always been done, she said.

But Yorac said that the PCGG would be retaining Kurer for purposes of "continuity," especially in light of the lifting of the freeze on the Swiss bank accounts of three alleged Marcos cronies.

"We cannot just dismiss lawyers because you must have some kind of continuity. But we're always reviewing the performance of our lawyers," Yorac explained.

Asked if she was disappointed with Kurer's performance, the feisty PCGG chief said, "I don't want to say anything about that."

"If we allowed our impulse to rule, we would have had to dismiss a lot of our people here immediately. But we can't do that for practical reasons," she said.

Romualdez was supposed to be arraigned on March 25, after three previous postponements, but he did not show up. Only his doctor did, claiming that his patient could not travel because of ill health.

Carranza said that the Ombudsman had already asked the Sandiganbayan's fifth division to issue a warrant of arrest for Romualdez.

"We hope that the court would issue that warrant of arrest," Carranza said. "What is important is that these cases move because Bejo Romualdez has Swiss accounts which could be unfrozen," Carranza said.

The commissioner said it was obvious that Romualdez had been deliberately delaying his cases before the Sandiganbayan.

The PCGG's frustration stems from the fact its lawyers do not serve as the prosecutors in the Sandiganbayan cases; the commission has had to rely on the Ombudsman's own lawyers. Carranza said ruefully that the Ombudsman's prosecutors, should give some "deference to the judgment of the PCGG."

Pushing the cases forward would "deprive them (Marcos cronies) of a reason for the Swiss to lift the freeze on their accounts," Carranza said.

Romualdez's arraignment is therefore crucial, he explained.

Last year, the Sandiganbayan issued a warning to Romualdez, who was charged with graft in 1989 for his alleged illegal takeover of Bataan Shipyard and Engineering Co. (Baseco), that he should appear for his Dec. 13 arraignment.

The court said this would be the last resetting, and if he still fails to attend would be forced to take "appropriate action" against him.

Nine counts of graft have been filed against Romualdez, mostly involving his alleged illegal takeover of Baseco.

He also has a pending civil case for recovery of ill-gotten wealth, and another forfeiture case involving ill-gotten wealth.

Carranza said that Bejo Romualdez had opened several dollar accounts in Swiss banks. He allegedly loaded cash into his boats when he fled the country during the 1986 People Power revolution.

He had been commissioned as "commodore" of the Philippine Navy by then-President Marcos.

He delayed the arraignment in criminal case 13736 for several years. He has also repeatedly invoked a reported heart ailment as reason for his failure to appear before the Sandiganbayan.

But Carranza noted that Romualdez was able to actively campaign for mayor of Tacloban City and for his son, Alfredo Romualdez Jr., who was running for Congress, in the last elections.

GMA: No to Charter change

From page A1

structure and corruption"—was eradicated.

"We may have the most beautiful Constitution in the whole wide world, but if the irritants that bedevil us and hinder our growth remain, then the crafting of such an excellent basic law may be for naught," said Syjuco, who chairs the House committee on suffrage and electoral reforms.

Don't block it

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., an advocate of federalism, urged the President not to block moves to amend the Charter.

Pimentel said Ms Macapagal's "personal stand against amending the 15-year Constitution during her term of office has stymied congressional deliberations on Charter reforms."

"If the President will drop her objection . . ., Congress can act expeditiously on pending resolutions for the adoption of a federal system, along with other noteworthy proposals for constitutional amendments," he said in a statement.

In the radio interview, the President expressed the hope that lawmakers would first focus their attention on the "so many very important bills" pending in Congress.

Some of these bills involve farmers' use of farm land as collateral for loans; the proposed Department of Housing; absentee voting; the right of companies to acquire banks' non-performing assets; and the proposed convergence law.

Amplifying on the President's stand, Press Secretary Rigoberto Tiglao said the administration could pursue economic reforms even without Charter amendments.

"She believes she can work within the present form of government," he said at a news briefing. "There's no pressing need to change the Charter, although she won't stop such moves."

Nothing but politics

The House committee on constitutional amendments has approved a measure calling for the convening on May 6 of assemblies in all 41,940 barangays nationwide to serve as venues to discuss proposed Charter amendments.

But according to Cebu Gov. Pablo Garcia, this could just be a ploy of those planning to run for the Senate in 2004.

"There is no other reason here but politics," said Garcia, a three-term congressman. "This will allow those interested to run for senator a chance to visit the barangays."

Garcia said the plan was impractical, untimely and a waste of money.

He said that he was in favor of Charter change but not at this time when the economy was still down, and that the common folk were more concerned about meeting their daily needs.

Garcia also said that if Charter change were to be pursued, it should be through a constitutional convention with elected delegates.

In this way, lawmakers cannot be accused of merely looking after their interests, he said.

But Cebu City Rep. Antonio Cuenco indicated that the House was bent on the planned assemblies.

If the resolution for the convening of the assemblies is approved during the resumption of House sessions on April 15, congressmen are expected to get involved in preparations in their districts, he said.

Cuenco said the people would be asked at least three questions: if they are in favor of Charter change; what part of the Constitution they wanted amended; and when these changes should be implemented.

Interviewed yesterday over dyLA in Cebu City, Interior Secretary Jose Lina said his office would have to study the matter.

"I don't see any problem," but the matter of looking for resources to fund the barangay assemblies would have to be considered because that was not included in the budget approved by Congress, Lina said.

In the running

Samar Rep. Antonio Eduardo Nachura, chair of the House committee on constitutional amendments, earlier said that if ratified in 2004, the shift to a parliamentary form of government would not happen until 2010, or after the six-year term of the President who would be elected in 2004.

He is taking for granted that Ms Macapagal will run in 2004 because she is merely serving the unfinished term of Joseph Estrada.

Initially, he expressed the view that if reelected in 2004, Ms Macapagal could still be in the running in 2010 under the envisioned new system. But he later agreed with Gonzalez who said Ms Macapagal would by then be covered by the constitutional ban on presidential reelection.

Nachura yesterday said the majority in the chamber wanted a parliamentary system but that there was as yet no agreement on what model to adopt.

Gonzalez said that under the French model he was proposing, a president would serve as head of state and a prime minister, head of government.

He said the prime minister, who manages the day-to-day affairs of the government, would come from members of the Parliament.

"This will be a more responsive form of government because the leadership comes from Congress," Gonzalez said.

He said that under this setup, a president would not be a ceremonial figure but a "strong" leader, as in France.

House Assistant Minority Leader Gilbert Remulla (Cavite) said the opposition would not oppose the revival of moves to amend the Charter.

"There's no doubt in my mind that an overwhelming majority of lawmakers from both the House and the Senate, including opposition members like me, are now in favor of a new initiative to amend the Constitution. The issue will no longer be whether or not we should amend the Constitution," he said in a statement.

Remulla said there were many "inherently defective" provisions in the Charter that needed to be changed.

"A basic example is the uneven spread of representation of our people in the Senate, (where) a huge number are from Luzon because it has the highest concentration of voters," he said.

Loud and strong

Senator Pimentel said "public voice in support of Charter change is growing loud and strong," as supposedly shown in "random surveys" conducted by the House committee on constitutional amendments and revision of laws "through a series of regional public consultations."

He said the surveys showed that "more than 90 percent of the people" were in favor of Charter change, and that there was an "overwhelming sentiment" for it among multinational companies in the country.

Among the amendments that Pimentel said he would push for was the shift to a federal system of government.

"It is a positive sign that our national leadership now recognizes the merits of a federal system as an alternative to the highly centralized government structure that has been blamed for some of our national ills," he said.

He maintained that there was "no other legal and constitutional way of solving the age-old and recurring problem of armed Moro uprising in Central and Southwestern Mindanao than the adoption of a federal system for the republic that will include a federal state for the Bangsa Moro."

Pimentel also said federalism would "provide an equal opportunity for the development of the regions of the country to counter the perception that Metro Manila is favored over the other regions in the matter of development."

With reports from Rocky Nazareno in Manila; Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau

Militants suspect return of US bases in Cha-cha agenda

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

A MILITANT group is convinced that the fresh campaign to amend the 1987 Constitution has something to do with the purported desire of the United States for permanent basing rights in the Philippines.

Furthermore, according to Rodolfo Sambajon, chair of the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya), the Americans want the provision banning foreign troops and nuclear weapons in the country removed from the Constitution.

Sambajon said that contrary to congressmen's claims that the people would be asked what amendments they would like introduced into the Charter, the House would "present a US wish list for approval and make it appear as the people's agenda."

"The House leadership under Speaker Jose de Venecia wants to legitimize the plan of the American colonial oppressors to clinch permanent basing rights through the politics of blackmail and psywar propaganda," he said.

Sambajon also said the proposed shift to a parliamentary form of government would be an exchange deal for politicians who would support permanent basing rights here for the United States.

"The US does not care if pro-US politicians extend their terms as long as these politicians will support the US desire to change the reactionary Constitution to an ultimate pro-globalization and pro-war Charter," he said.

New karaoke will save lives, keep listeners' sanity

From page A1

machine that adjusts tunes to the singer's ability.

Taito Corp. said its new karaoke machine, to be introduced in Japan this summer, would automatically adjust the pitch and tune of songs to those of the singer, its spokesperson Makoto Tanaka said Wednesday.

While the machine cannot make karaoke diehards sing better, it can minimize the glaring inconsistencies in tone, pitch and speed with the backing melody.

"If a singer wants to sing slowly, even if it's only certain parts, the machine will recognize it and will wait for the singer to move on to the next passage," Tanaka said. "So if you want to sing like thiiiiiiis, this machine will wait for you to finish that part before moving on."

The singer can also register his or her voice with the machine, which then automatically adjusts the key of the selected song to the key of the singer, Tanaka said.

CD quality

The machine was a product of a joint research with US chipmaker Analog Devices and Barry Vercoe, professor of music, media art and science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the United States.

The machine's sound is compact disc-quality, "as if you are listening to a live band," Tanaka said.

It will also come with a system to give point grades to singers, similar to a score on an arcade computer game.

"The grading karaoke machine currently available only compares the singer's performance against standardized tunes of the selected songs," Tanaka said. "But this new machine will recognize the singer's use of vibrato, tremolos and other techniques for grading singers."

This should give better grades to good singers and give "improved singing pleasure" even for not so good ones, he said.

Hidehito Kitamura, who headed Taito's development of the new system, described it as "sound synthesis on software that until now was only used in experiments and research."

Unfortunately for other karaoke-mad countries, Taito has no immediate plan to introduce the machine abroad, Tanaka said. He said the price had not yet been set. ***Reports from AFP and Reuters***

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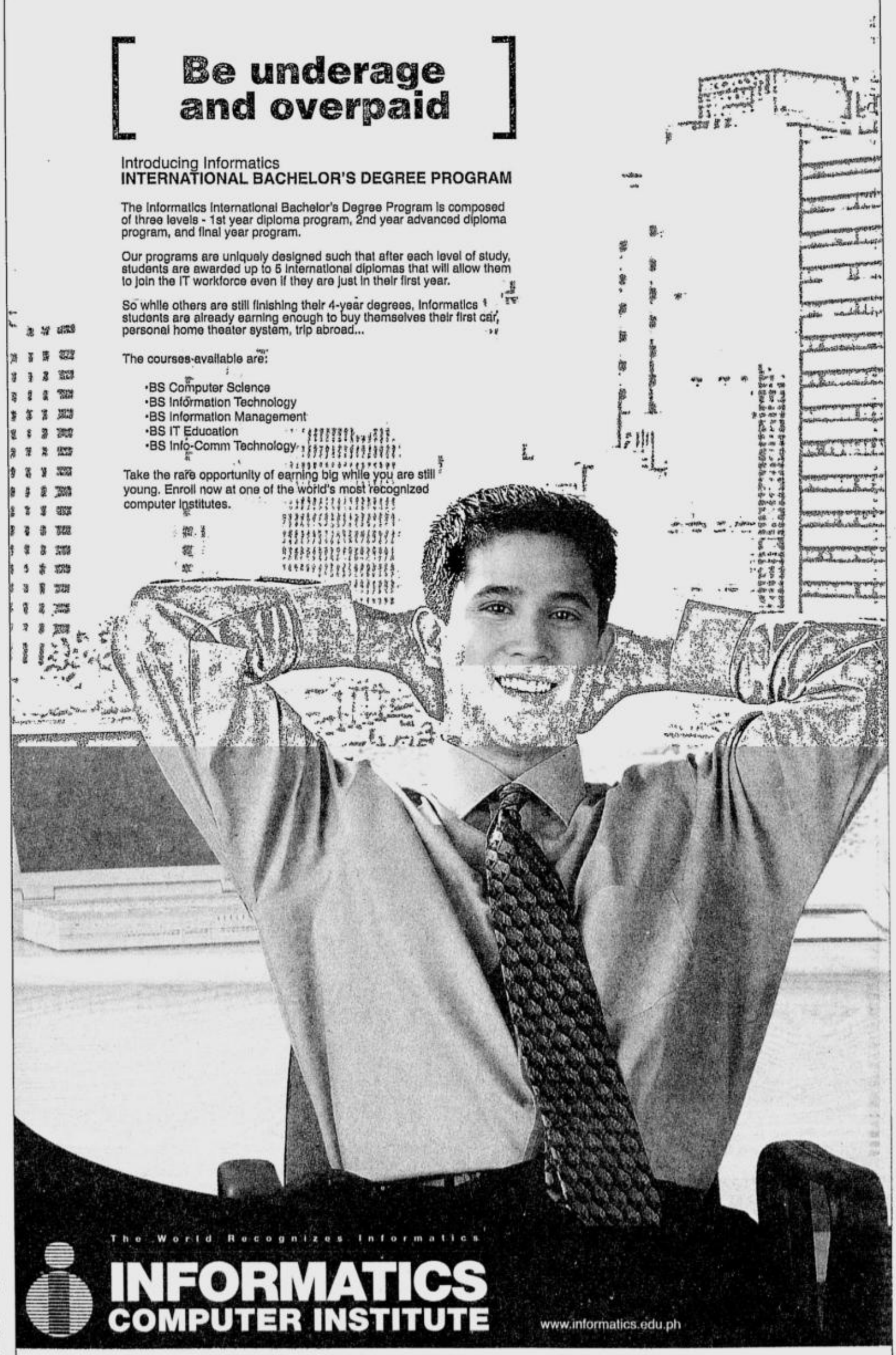

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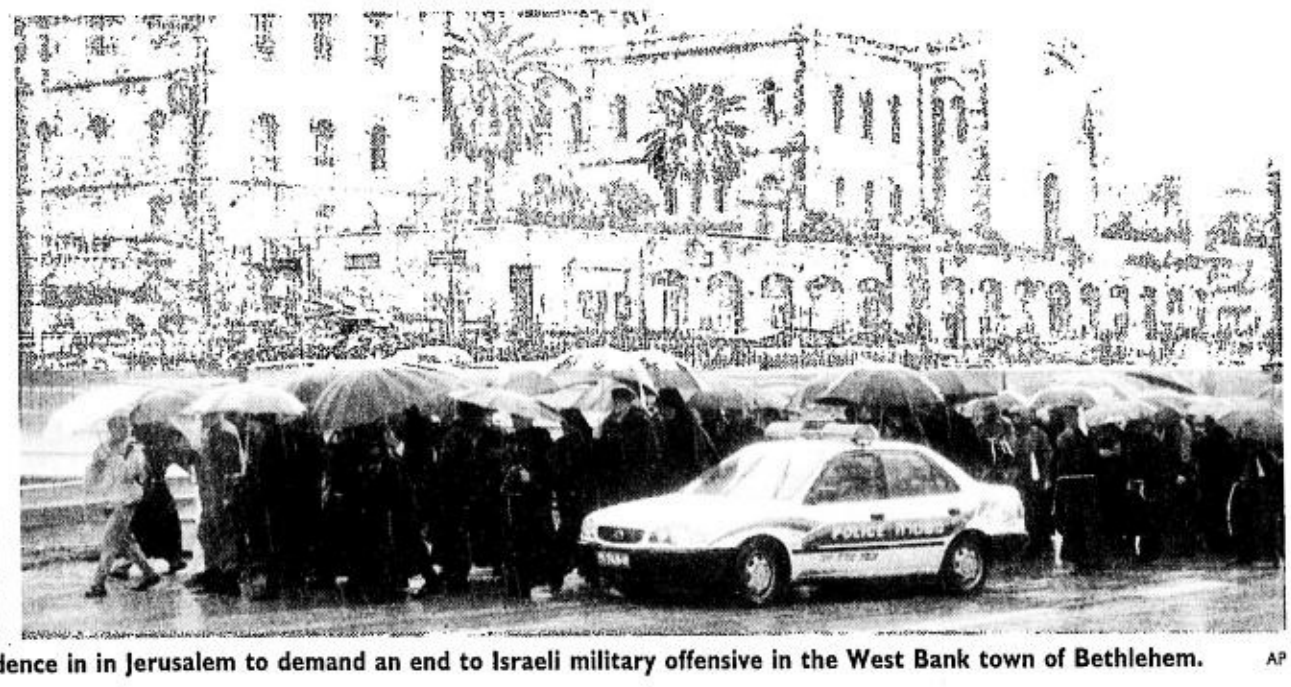


PRIESTS and monks protest in front of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's official residence in in Jerusalem to demand an end to Israeli military offensive in the West Bank town of Bethlehem. AP

Palestinians occupy Church of the Nativity

From page A1

They are striking the church of the Virgin Mary."

Israeli forces pushed into other West Bank centers before dawn Wednesday, entering the northern towns of Salfit and Jenin and the Jelazoun refugee camp, near Ramallah, in a search for suspected militants and weapons.

At the Church of the Nativity that was built over the traditional birthplace of Jesus, priests were forced to give refuge to Palestinian police and militiamen, who shot their way in on Tuesday after running battles with Israeli troops firing from helicopter gunships and from tank-mounted machine guns.

As Israeli soldiers encircled the church, the Palestinians rested in pews and on the stone floor, said Samir, a Palestinian policeman inside the church. About 20 of the gunmen were wounded and were being tended to by nuns and priests, Samir said.

"First of all, most of the guys have run out of bullets and secondly, we're completely surrounded," Samir said by telephone.

About 120 armed men were hiding in the church, said Marc Innaro, a correspondent for Italy's RAI TV, who was trapped in the compound by the fighting, along with five colleagues.

Israeli forces had previously entered Bethlehem several times during the past 18 months of fighting, but they had been ordered not to harm holy places, and they had kept their distance from the church.

Offensive

The West Bank offensive—dubbed "Operation Protective Wall"—seeks to halt a wave of terror attacks against Israelis.

In Jenin, at least 30 tanks rumbled into the town from all sides, exchanging fire with Palestinians at the entrance of a refugee camp, witnesses said.

Israeli forces took over several tall buildings that provided views into the camp, they said.

A Palestinian woman, Fadwa Jammal, 27, died after she was shot in the abdomen, said Mohammed Abu Ghali, director of the city's hospital.

Tanks also took up positions in Salfit. The Army said that there were exchanges of fire as troops moved into the town but neither side reported casualties.

Sharon, Arafat

On Tuesday, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon proposed publicly for the first time that diplomats fly Arafat into exile.

Sharon noted that such a move would require Cabinet approval, but Arafat swiftly rejected the offer, saying he would rather be a "martyr" than leave.

"Is it his (Sharon's) homeland or ours?" Arafat said in an interview Tuesday night with the Arab satellite TV station Al Jazeera.

Israel TV on Tuesday showed footage of military chief Lt. Gen. Shaul Mofaz urging Sharon to expel Arafat.

During a joint visit to an Army base in the West Bank, Mofaz was seen telling Sharon: "We should kick him out." Sharon—apparently unaware his comments were being recorded—replied, "I know."

Mofaz continued: "This is an opportunity that won't return."

Offensive for 4 weeks

Israeli forces spent much of Tuesday battering the compound of West Bank Palestinian security chief Jibril Rajoub with shellfire and rockets.

By nightfall, most of the about 400 Palestinians trapped inside the building had surrendered to Israeli troops.

Witnesses reported gunfire near the compound overnight, but it was not immediately clear whether any Palestinians remained inside.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said the offensive would last about three to four weeks, the first senior Israeli official to give a timeframe. But Sharon earlier said the campaign was open-ended.

In Washington, US Secretary of State Colin Powell said on Tuesday that Israel should end the campaign quickly. But he suggested the United States would not insist on an immediate Israeli withdrawal.

"I would guess it will take them (the Israelis) a couple of weeks" to conclude the mission, Powell said on NBC's Today show.

By Wednesday morning, over 800 suspected militants—men ranging from their mid-teens to their mid-40s—had been rounded up in Ramallah, according to Israeli and Palestinian security sources.

The Palestinians have denounced the mass roundups as collective punishment, but Israel has defended them as a legitimate means of hunting down wanted men.

Bombing foiled

Late Tuesday, Israeli soldiers foiled a suicide bombing by shooting at explosives strapped to the attacker's chest, detonating the bomb and killing the man before he could get close enough to harm others, the military said.

Soldiers fired at the man, who appeared to have something bulky around his torso, after he charged them at a checkpoint in Baka al-Sharkiyeh, a Palestinian village along the line between Israel and the West Bank, the military said.

The bombing was the seventh such attack in about a week. On Monday night, a 22-year-old Palestinian man blew himself up after police stopped his car in downtown Jerusalem. A policeman also died in the attack. ***AP***

Gloria won't stop execution of 2 kidnappers

From page A1

The President said yesterday she would not commute the sentences of Roberto Lara and Ricardo Lecayan to life imprisonment. Lara and Lecayan were convicted by a Marikina court for abducting Joseph Thomas Co and Linda Manaysay in August 1998.They had demanded a P10-million ransom.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said last month that the Supreme Court had upheld the death penalty for Licayan and Lara.

"In general, we have a moratorium on the death penalty, except for kidnapping because until we have stopped kidnappings, we should use all the weapons we have under the law against them, and among these weapons is the death penalty," she told Bombo Radyo.

Macapagal suspended the death penalty after she took office in January 2001. She lifted the moratorium last October for convicted kidnappers, saying the freeze had emboldened criminals.

'Arrogant'

The human rights lawyers' association, Free Legal Assistance Group (Flag), has urged Ms Macapagal to stop all executions.

Lawyer Theodore Te, Flag coordinator, called the President's decision to allow the August executions "arrogant, undemocratic."

Te said Ms Macapagal should wait until Congress "arrives at a clear and definitive position on the abolition of capital punishment."

Congress is in the process of reviewing the death penalty, which became law in 1994. Ms Macapagal has expressed support for a move by legislators to repeal the law on capital punishment.

However, the President stressed yesterday that "unless a law is passed by then to commute the death penalty, the execution (in August) would go ahead."

SLIPPERS galore at the "tsinelas" festival in Liliw, Laguna, attended by President Macapagal on Wednesday. VAL HANDUMON

In a statement, Flag also said that "capital punishment as a deterrent to crime is an experiment that has failed."

The death penalty was abolished in the 1987 Constitution but was restored in 1994 for "heinous" crimes such as rape, kidnapping, murder and drug trafficking.

More than 1,690 people have been sentenced to death since then.

Human rights groups blocked executions until 1999 and early 2000, when seven convicts were put to death, mostly for rape. Before then, there had been a 23-year lull when capital punishment was not employed.

Pressure from the Catholic Church forced then President Joseph Estrada to suspend future executions.

Reversing her anti-death penalty position last October, President Macapagal vowed to execute all convicted kidnappers to put an end to the spate of kidnappings in the country.

The President said that kidnappers continue to orchestrate abductions even behind bars.

Under court rules, executions are to take place not less than 12 months but not later than 18 months after the Supreme Court has upheld a death sentence with finality.

Debate heats up . . .

From page A1

through the PPA.

The PPA fluctuates according to world crude oil prices and the peso-dollar rate, Ms Macapagal pointed out.

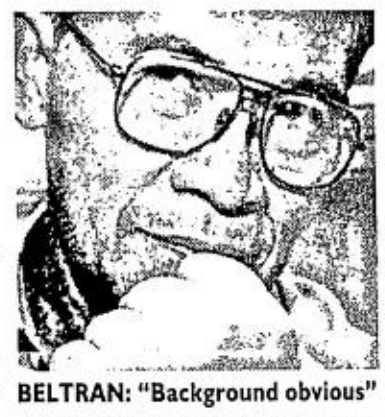
"Suppose through political will, we do away with the power distributor because it bought its crude oil at high prices. Then we will have no electricity. Is that what they want? Maybe that's what the communists want so our country and the government will collapse," Ms Macapagal said.

Coming to the defense of Beltran, the head of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) accused Ms Macapagal of being a "shameless stooge of the Lopezes and the Philippine elite."

Teodoro A. Casiño, Bayan secretary-general, said the President was also a patron of other powerful families like the Ayalas, Aboitizes, Cojuangcos, Tans, Gokongweis, Yuchengcos and Alcantaras and "protector" of monopolies like Meralco and PLDT and the oil cartel.

"Why is it that when labor unions ask for a wage hike, the President is quick to label them anti-labor and anti-Filipino. But when monopolies like Meralco and the oil cartel ask for price increases, she shuts up? Is it because monopolists are her *amigos* and *amigas*?" Casiño said in a press statement.

He urged the President to oppose not only Meralco's petition but also the impending oil price hike, saying it was the least her administration could do to protect



BELTRAN: "Background obvious"

the public from monopoly practices.

Press Secretary Rigoberto Tiglao tempered the President's name-calling tirade.

Tiglao said the President was simply calling a spade a spade. "Mr. Beltran's background is quite obvious," he said.

"We're not saying they should be arrested for being a communist, but we just want to clarify where certain criticisms are coming from," he said.

"If Mr. Beltran disputes it, that will be well and good. We'll be happy to hear from him that he's not a communist, that he's not a member of the communist party," said the presidential spokesperson, who was also labeled a communist last year by a senator.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson called him a "communist" in an attempt to discredit him.

Tiglao, an anti-Marcos activist, retaliated by calling Lacson, who was part of the dreaded martial law police, a "human rights violator."

Lawmaker asks Meralco: Where did profits go?

From page A1

where the earnings of Meralco were funneled to determine if the company's plan to increase its rates was justified.

"I want to know because this might be another Enron," Gonzalez said, referring to the American power company that went bankrupt.

The Energy Regulatory Commission said Meralco's two-year-old petition for a rate hike of 30 centavos per kilowatt-hour had been set aside due to hearings on the firm's unbundled rates.

Unbundling refers to the breaking down of the total power charges into its component parts—generation, transmission, distribution, supply and other charges. The power reform law requires the unbundling of power charges.

ERC Chair Fe Barin said the rate hike petition was not scrapped although approval and implementation of Meralco's unbundled rates could render it moot.

"We are focusing now on the application for unbundling, but we have not approved anything yet," Barin said.

Meralco's current charges are based on 1993 costs while its proposed unbundled rates are based on 2000 costs.

Amid strong opposition, the utility firm submitted a revised proposal, which reduced possible increases for customers using 51 kwh to 300 kwh a month.

Amend power reform law

At yesterday's hearing on Meralco's petition, businessman Raul Concepcion said he would seek an amendment to the power reform law to postpone the implementation of the unbundled rates.

Concepcion said the implementation of unbundled rates should be done only after the National Power Corp.'s transmission and generation assets had been privatized.

"If power charges are unbundled within the year, current rates should be used just to make the people familiar with unbundling," he said.

Concepcion said Napocor should first "present in a transparent manner" its losses that the public would shoulder.

He said Napocor should give data on the following:

- Power plants it will mothball because of excess power supply;
- Contracts with independent power producers that have to be honored even if the plants are not operating;
- Cost from the sale of depreciated power plants; and
- Costs resulting from Napocor's debts worth more than P800 million.

Water firms also under fire over plans to increase rates

From page A1

Manila Water's basic charge increased 60 percent from P4.22 to P6.76 per cubic meter.

Padilla found that "more than 50 percent of what consumers were paying were not related to their water consumption."

Aside from the basic charge, consumers pay for the foreign currency deferential adjustment, environment sewer's charge, meter service charge, currency exchange rate adjustment and VAT, according to Padilla.

On the average, the foreign currency deferential adjustment alone accounted for 49 percent of the total cost of a consumer's bill, according to Padilla.

He said his resolution would call on officials of the water concessionaires to explain the "procedure" in coming up with these charges.

"We also want to find out the basis in law of these charges," Padilla added.

Maynilad services the west zone, which includes Manila, Pasay, Las Piñas, Malabon, Muntinlupa, Valenzuela, Navotas, Parañaque, Bacoor, Kawit, Imus, Cavite City, Noveleta, Rosario and parts of Quezon City.

Manila Water distributes water in the east zone, which includes Makati, Mandaluyong, San Juan, Angono, Baras, Binangonan, Cainta, Cardona, Jala-jala, Morong, Pililia, Rodriguez, San Mateo, Taytay and parts of Marikina.

Besides the impending power rate hike, consumers will be hit by another round of oil price increases.

Two weeks ago, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Caltex Philippines Inc., and Petron Corp. raised the pump price of gasoline by 35 centavos and diesel by 30 centavos.

Iloilo Rep. Augusto Boboy Syjuco assailed oil companies for increasing the price of their products.

He said the oil firms were among the "first beneficiaries of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict."

In a statement, Syjuco asked oil firms to wait for the dust in the Middle East to séttle before they increase their prices.

"Oil firms are projecting a doomsday scenario as a pretext for increasing prices," he said.

Cruz leads Hall of Fame nominees

THE 11 nominees in this year's National Basketball Hall of Fame induction ceremony earned their place in the pantheon by doing the country proud with their exemplary performance during their heyday.

Briefly, in no special order, are the major exploits of some of the nominees:

- **Gerry Cruz.** 1959 Chile World Basketball Championship, 8th place; 1960 Rome Olympics, 11th; two gold medals, Asian Games (1958 Tokyo, 1962 Jakarta); and gold medal, 1963 ABC in Taipei. Born in Betis, Guagua, Pampanga, tall and handsome Gerry grew to about 6-foot-2 to become star player of Betis Elementary School, Guagua National High and Far Eastern University, where, in his rookie year, the Tamaraws won the UAAP title. He was recruited by the Ysmael Steel Admirals, many-time Micaa and national Open champions from 1956 to 1964. In 1959, Gerry was invited to play for the University of San Francisco Dons, but he returned home after only two months of training because he was treated unfairly and shabbily. He retired in 1964 due to a bad knee injury.
- **Eddie Decena.** 1948 London Olympic Games, 12th place. He became a household name when he was voted Most Valuable Player of the NCAA in 1947 as a member of La Salle's fabulous Green Archers, the first NCAA post-war champions. The following year, Decena was chosen to carry the colors in the London Olympics. In October 1948, he played for the Philippine quintet against the visiting Oakland Bittners from the United States. In that exhibition game, Decena hurt his knee, leading to an early retirement. Born on Jan. 14, 1926, Decena was enshrined in La Salle's Hall of Fame on March 5, 1995.
- **Eddie Lim.** 1959 Chile World Basketball Championship, 8th place; 1952 Helsinki Olympic games, 9th place; 1956 Melbourne Olympics, 7th; two gold medals in Asian Games (1954 Manila, 1958 Tokyo); and gold, 1960 Manila ABC. Lim earned the monicker "Stonewall" from legendary sportscaster Willie Hernandez. He sparked San Beda to the NCAA championships in 1951-52 and the National Open tournament, also in 1952. In the Micaa, Lim played a key role for multi-titled YCO that won the National Open crown a record seven straight time under coaches Leo Prieto and the late Tito Eduque.
- **Luis "Moro" Lorenzo.** Gold medal, 1951 New Delhi Asian Games. An all-around athlete, Moro Lorenzo also played tennis and football, aside from being a member of the Ateneo track and field team from 1948 to 1951. An eagle-eyed shooter who averaged from 30 to 35 points per game, Lorenzo was named Mr. Basketball by the Philippine Sportswriters Association during its inaugural PSA Awards Night on April 15, 1950. The star forward of the Philippine team that won the 1951 Asian Games championship in New Delhi, Lorenzo was the skipper of Philippine Airlines that captured the Micaa title in 1952-53.

Cycling for Habitat attracts 400 participants

AN ESTIMATED 400 cyclists from various youth organizations and schools across the country will participate in the upcoming "Cycling for Habitat" bike tour on Sunday.

It will kick off at the Quezon City memorial circle at 6 a.m., with the cyclists expected to arrive at the Festival Mall in Alabang, Muntinlupa by 11 a.m. To be hosted by GMA 7's Game Plan, "Cycling for Habitat is a 75 km bike ride which aims to raise awareness for habitat for Humanity Philippines' Youth Build 2002. It also aims to increase awareness on the several activities of HFHP Youth Build 2002.

According to HFHP managing director lawyer Joey Mendoza, the activity will serve as a good opportunity for the various youth delegations to show their full support for the upcoming HFHP activities.

INDIANA Pacers' Brad Miller (left) gets fouled by Boston Celtics' Eric Williams during their NBA game on Tuesday. The Celtics won, 105-94. Meanwhile, the Los Angeles Lakers received a big game from Shaquille O'Neal en route to an easy 113-93 victory over the Washington Wizards as Michael Jordan was held to a career-low two points. COMPLETE RESULTS: Cleveland 101, Phoenix 96; Boston 105, Indiana 94; Atlanta 100, Milwaukee 92; Detroit 90, Miami 87; Sacramento 107, Memphis 83; L.A. Lakers 113, Washington 93; New York 91, Charlotte 85; Houston 100, Seattle 98; Denver 98, Utah 90; Golden State 107, Portland 90. AP

Professional Davao Eagles aim to fly high

ONE thing that goes well for the Professional Davao Eagles is they are very flexible.

"We can go big, we can go small," said team manager Bito Orcullo. "It all depends on our opponent."

Fact is, only 6-foot-6 center Billy Mamaril is sure to start every game. The rest of the starting five may vary according to the preference and strategy of head coach Bong Go.

Unlike last year, however, when the then TPG Davao Eagles were usually clobbered at the middle, they have grown taller and bigger.

Former Cebuana Lhuillier Gem Jan Montalbo, who is 6-foot-5, and 6-4 ½ rookie Jon Dan Salvador will alternate at the power forward slot, while Cid White, formerly of the Negros Slashers, and rookie Brandon Sison, both 6-4, will swap places at small forward.

The off-guard position will be contested by 6-foot Bong Marata and 6-3 acquisition Glenn Peter John Yap, while Go has three options to start at the point—Mike Manigo, former PBL MVP Genesis Sasuman and last year's prized find Peter Jun Simon.

Coming off the bench are 6-5 Erian Daja, 6-5 Rolly Menor, 6-2 Dennis Concha and 6-3 Richard Caliao, who was taken in to provide frontline experience.

Orcullo said the Eagles held a team building seminar yesterday, for the players, coaches, management and support staff to get to know each other better.

"So far so good," said Orcullo. "We only have one tune-up game, but already the players have started to jell. The Professional Davao Eagles, who are being supported by the Professional Group, routed local team Marsman, 111-69, Tuesday night.

Danding entry heavy favorite

POSSESING the biggest number of gamebirds in the Philippines, including the proven Roundhead Hatch Murphy and Yellow Legged Hatch, sportsman Danding Cojuangco's bet looms as one of the heavy favorites in today's "LCC 7-Cock Derby" finals at the Mandaluyong Coliseum.

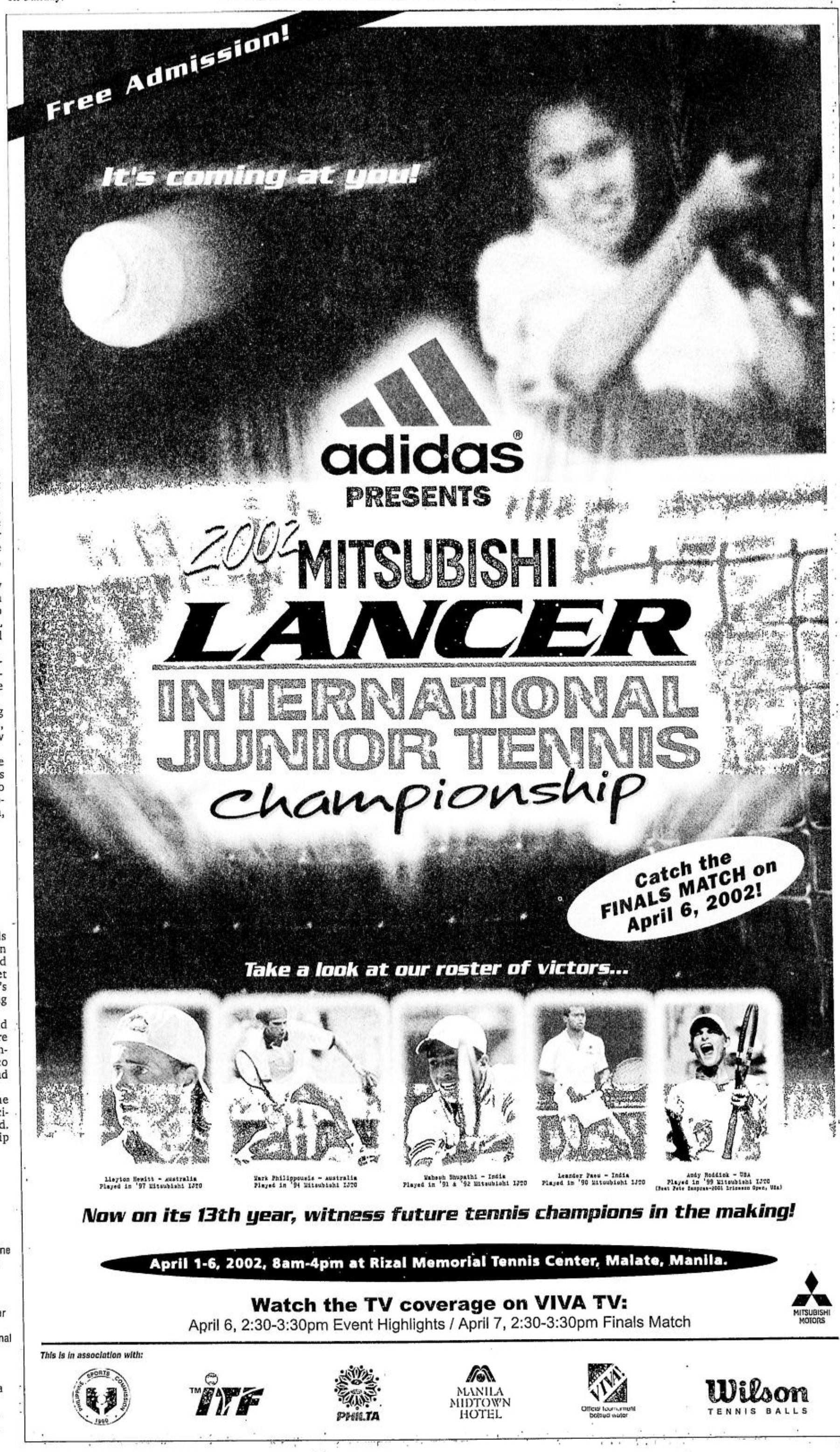
Cojuangco's Bumble Bee Balbina posted three victories Tuesday night, the same score of Bobby Wong's Flyover II, Tony Lasala's Hammer Jr. Sibunag, Pepito Ngo's BL Mexico Fatman, Benjie Lim's 5-Cock Pasay May 3 and 4 and Gerry Ramos' Bakbakan sa Las Piñas.

Hosted by Louie Cua and Company, the cockfest saw the participation of 51 participants in Tuesday's 3-cock elimination round. On tap today is the 4-cock championship round.

RACING TIPS

At Sta. Ana By Mr. 999

Race 1—1. Armee's Hope 2. Forest Dancer 3. Gossip Column 4. Roman Music
Race 2—1. Haz It All 2. Divine Diva 3. North Shine
Race 3—1. Kay Gee Em Ey 2. Love Song 3. Free Entrance
Race 4—1. Dandansoy 2. Midnight Runner 3. Arrividerci/Bukambibig 4. Striking Abbey
Race 5—1. Lady Victoria 2. Victory Lap 3. Power Corrupts 4. Majestic Ruler
Race 6—1. Sir Lawrence 2. Despedida 3. Marginal Note 4. Michael's Way
Race 7—1. Dancing Spree 2. Fortius 3. Grand Prize 4. Bolt Freddy 5. Triple Joy
Race 8—1. St. Emillon 2. Intunda 3. Seiko Shita 4. May's Magic
Race 9—1. Storm Princess 2. Diamond Buck 3. Norma's Pet 4. Imus Emperor 5. Kala Star 6. Search for Gold



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BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1992, Wack Wack tallied 229 points to post a three-stroke victory over Ft. Bonifacio in the 2nd Jungolf-Magnolia Cup national interclub tournament at the Manila Golf Club.

Red Bull, Coca-Cola battle it out for quarterfinal slot

Teams	W	L	Teams	W	L
Purefoods	7	1	Hapee-RP	4	4
Talk N Text	6	1	San Miguel	4	4
Red Bull	5	2	Sta. Lucia	4	4
Coca-Cola	5	3	Selecta-RP	2	6
Alaska	4	4	Ginebra	1	7
Fedex	4	4	Shell	1	7

GAME TODAY (Makati Coliseum)
6 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs Red Bull

BATANG Red Bull aims to keep itself within striking distance among the leaders when the Thunder face the Coca-Cola Tigers today in the PBA Samsung Governors Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

Running third behind frontrunners Purefoods and Talk N Text, the Thunder are seeking their sixth victory in eight games in an effort to grab a seat going into the quarterfinals.

Failure to do so in the lone 6 p.m. duel against the Tigers would not only deny the Thunder an outright ticket into the next phase but also pull them down at solo fourth.

A win for Coca-Cola would push the Tigers to the quarterfinals.

GALLANT FIL-AM
Fil-American Ruben Gonzales dishes out the form that made him a gallant 6-2, 7-6 (5) victor over Luke Campbell of Great Britain yesterday in the 13th Mitsubishi Lancer International Junior Tennis Chamionship at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. The Chicago-born Gonzales will face Taiwan's Liu Tai-wei today. But local female bet Czarina Mae Arevalo wasn't as lucky, losing to Elise Tamaela of Switzerland after a grueling three-setter, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, in the event presented by Adidas. Meanwhile, the draw for the Asia-Oceania Zone Group II Davis Cup tie between the Philippines and Kuwait will be held today at the Manila Midtown Hotel. The first two singles matches will be played tomorrow at 1 p.m. at the Phlippine Columbian in Paco, Manila. JESS YUSON

Baguion shines as John O wins

GAMES TOMORROW (Makati Coliseum)
4 p.m.—Ateneo vs Montana
6 p.m.—Kutitap vs Shark

By June Navarro

THE SMALLEST man on the floor came up with the biggest shot of the game during the opener of the 2002 PBL Chairman's Cup.

Froilan Baguion, a 5-foot-7 ace playmaker from the National University, converted a daredevil drive with 1.2 seconds left to carry John O' Juzz to a thrilling 102-101 victory over Ana Freezers last night at the Makati Coliseum.

"There were no particular instructions for them to follow. Baguion just took it upon himself and led the team to victory," said John O Juzz coach Manny Dandan, Baguion's mentor at NU.

Baguion grabbed the rebound, dribbled the length of the court and made serpentine moves toward the basket that sealed the win for the debuting Juzzers.

Baguion led his team with 20 points, six rebounds and eight assists after going 8 of 10 from the field.

The Freezer Kings, however, could have won the roller-coaster affair had power forward Ronald Pascual used the time wisely.

With 11 ticks remaining and the Freezer Kings gaining possession, the 6-foot-3 Pascual threw an ill-advised side jumper that went short and sent the ball to the hands of Baguion.

Through the efforts of Pascual, Ronald Tubid and Dondon Mendoza, the Freezer Kings led most of the way and seemed poised to subdue the Juzzers.

Flaunting their vast experience over a rookie squad, the Freezer Kings showed composure in the closing minutes as they started pulling away.

Pascual, Tubid and Melvin Mamaclay joined hands in giving the Freezers Kings the luxury of a 90-82 lead midway in the fourth quarter.

But the Juzzers kept themselves in the thick of action as Baguion, Arnold Booker and Ranidel de Ocampo scored consecutive baskets.

ICTSI-La Salle bested Blu, 66-55, in the second game to share the early lead with John O' Juzz.

Scores:

JOHN O JUZZ 102—Baguion 20, Santos 11, Cayabyab 12, Barbosa 12, Ferrer 10, De Ocampo 10, Napa 10, Booker 7, Olaguer 6, Manabat 4, Tolentino 0, Neo 0, Grijaldo 0.

ANA 101—Tubid 23, Mendoza 20, Laygo 14, Artadi 11, Pascual 9, Mamaclay 7, Villar 6, Oreta 5, Chaneco 3, Gumatay 3, Giron 0.

Quarters: 25-30, 52-55, 79-84, 102-101.

SPORTSWATCH

President's Cup Regatta sets sail in Batangas

NASUGBU, Batangas—All eyes were on Fred Kinmoth's Stella and Ray Ordoveza's Karakoa as the President's Cup Regatta 2002 set sail yesterday with a morning and an afternoon open racing class race in the scenic coastal waters of the Philippine Riviera. Stella and Karakoa were the odds-on picks to dominate the country's premier sailing event, which drew the participation of 28 of the world's best keelboats and multihulls. Kinmoth's Stella, which has a Sydney 38 design, ruled last year's regatta with a 12.75-point performance while Ordoveza's Karakoa placed third with 15.5 points. Second placer DK40 of Johannes Waimer is absent this year. Also keenly watched are Maligaya of businessman-industrialist Andres Soriano III, Hi-Fidelity of Neil Pryde and Frank Pong's Jelik.

Valencia, Ballacer rule La Union chessfest

SAN FERNANDO CITY—Belshar Valencia and Dino Ballacer topped the recent La Union Qualifying chess tournament to represent San Fernando City and the province of La Union in the National Chess semifinals on April 15 to 20 at the 2nd Floor, Centermall, Greenhills Shopping Complex in San Juan.

This six-round Swiss system qualifying tournament was bankrolled by San Fernando City Mayor Mary Jane Ortega and organized by National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP) Region I coordinator engineer Joseph Dumuk and chief arbiter Jerwin Carbonel. The National Chess semis organized by the NCFP directors headed by NCFP president Mat Defensor and NCFP secretary general Sammy Estimo will feature simultaneous matches in the men's and women's division. For details, contact NCFP secretariat at tels. 435-1113 or 14. Look for Chad Fang.

DEFENSOR

Ngos beat foes, bag Baguio junior tennis titles

BAGUIO—Gerard Ngo plastered Patrick Arevalo, 6-3, 6-1, to bag the boys' 12-under division and elder sister Angelica Ngo edged Jayreen Wee 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 in the girls' 18-under bracket on Tuesday in the 2002 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop here at the Baguio Tennis Club. Club protégé Andrew Tangalin completed a fairytale week following a 6-4, 6-7, 6-2 victory over Chung Soo-Han in the boys' 14-under class, before the Korean redeemed himself with a 6-2, 6-2 win over Daniel Macalino for the boys' 16-under title. Other finalists in the Milo netfest organized by the Children's Tennis Workshop and supported by Adidas and Sports Kids with sanction from the Philippine Tennis Association are Akio Sy against Joselito Cortez in the unisex 10-under bracket and Jimmy Tangalin with Borgs Solpico in the boys' 18-under division. Bambi Zoleta guns for a double against Anna Lorraine Tan in the girls' 12-under and 14-under categories.

AIM golf tourney at Eagle Ridge April 12

THE 5TH Asian Institute of Management (AIM) Golf Tournament will be held on April 12 at the Aoki Course of Eagle Ridge in Gen. Trias, Cavite. One of the major activities of the forthcoming AIM Alumni Homecoming set on May 10 at the NBC Tent, the golf tourney will gather some of the brightest names in business and society. It also aims to raise money for the AJM Scholarship Fund, which provides educational opportunities to competent degree holders and executives. Participants will be classified into Classes A,B,C,D and a guest division for friends of AIM graduates. Individual awards will be given to the champion and first runner-up in each division. Awarding is on May 10. Any AIM Batch can field as many players as they want. Alumni and golf enthusiasts are invited to join. For details, contact Mari Lim at (0917)527-3231, 842-4271, Randy Ang (0917)526-2615, 637-5237, Yoly Diaz de Rivera at tel. 726-2334; or email sstation@philonline.com.

Kagitingan bets maintain 3-shot lead

KAGITINGAN held on to a precarious three-stroke lead over Canlubang going into today's final round of the 2002 Jungolf Interclub, the opening leg of the summer circuit of the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines at the Manila Golf Club course. Reigning Asian champ Judson Eustaquio saved the day for his Kagitingan teammates with a second straight 77, MacMae Arevalo added an 80 and Vendrick Tan had an 84 as they tallied 476 for two days. Early favorite Canlubang, riding the 74 of Michael Bibat, was just three behind at 471 while Cebu, behind Class A leader Keenan Ugarte's 73, jumped to third at 481. Villamor and Southwoods also stayed in the fight by sharing fourth at 485 in the 14-team field. Ugarte's rounds of 79-73 put him on top by one over Bibat (79-74) in the chase for Class A honors. GT Laguatan of Aguinaldo was running third at 156. Bibat drew solid support from Takeshi Tozawa, Michael Kobayashi and Gerard Arriola while Ugarte's backup crew includes Charles Hong, JJ Alvarez and Kathleen Uy.

Negros netfest April 10

THE NEGROS Occidental Tennis Association, in celebration of the Panaad festival in Bacolod City, will host the Alibor-Accel Bacolod Tennis Classic on April 10-13 at the NOTA courts.

Overall chair Dr. Severo Lacson II said the tournament will have competitions in the boys' and girls' 18-under, 16-under, 14-under, 12-under. and unisex 10-under divisions.

Players may register with Jovan Divina Gracia at NOTA (034-4346946), Philta (5256434) and coach Onay Martin (0916-3191289)

MYG to feature songs, dances

SONGS, music, dances and festivity coupled with the solemnity of the spirit of athletic competition will fill the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex during the opening ceremony of the 1st Manila Youth Games on Sunday, April 7.

A three-hour long ceremony, highlighted by the awarding of plaques of appreciation to true-blue Manileño sports greats, has been prepared to usher in the weeklong games that is a pet program of Manila City Hall's sports arm, the Manila Sports Council.

First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain are the main guests in the ceremony scheduled to start at 5 p.m. Arroyo and Buhain are the keynote speakers while Atienza will declare the Games open.

"We expect to open the first MYG with a bang with this festive opening ceremony and with the intention that all weeklong competitions will be as exciting and heated among the kids," said Arnold "Ali" Atienza, Masco chair.

Nissan Marathon roars off tomorrow

THE NISSAN Marathon: The 4th Philippine run will roar off tomorrow at the Eastwood City Walk in Libis, Quezon City.

The grueling, non-stop, 30-day race, with the New Exalta at the forefront, will cover 31,000 kilometers of Philippine roads from Luzon to Visayas-Mindanao.

Nissan Motor Philippines has invited top government and tourism officials, mediamen, car dealers and motoring icons to watch tomorrow's blastoff at high noon in front of Country Waffles.

"Now that we have established the name for luxury and innovation, we would like to show the public that our cars are made to perform," said Tonette Lee, product and marketing head of NMPI. "Different people have different needs. Some people put a premium on flashy features, while some are happy with amenities that make their driving experience comfortable. NMPI is happy to provide a happy compromise for all with this new Exalta."

To man the car are Willie Ingles and Andy Dysangco.

The New Exalta, according to Arthur Wang, NMPI senior vce president for marketing and sales, is equipped with powerful QG16DE engine and smooth Electronic Automatic Transmission (EAT) like the other GS models.

"The new model, however, is fitted with woodgrain and moquette interiors and comes with a host of values including anti-lock brake system with electronic brakeforce distribution (EBD), airbag SRS, speed-sensing doorlocks and rear back-up sensors. Finally, a 6-disc CD changer rounds out the package, making a superior balance of performance, safety and luxury," said Wang.

Supporting this pioneering effort are Caltex and Goodyear Tires, which will also [illegible] complete tests on their products along the entire route of the marathon.

Caltex is fielding its Vortex Silver and Havoline oil while Goodyear is supporting the team with both dry-weather and wet-weather Eagle Ventura tires.

Also extending a helping hand is Philtranco, the bus company, whose ferry port services are located in Matnog, Allen, Palompon, Liloan and Lipata in Luzon and the Visayas.

Hoopology camp set

REGISTRATION is in full swing for the Nike Hoopology summer basketball camp slated April 8-17 at the RFM Sports Center on Pioneer Street in Mandaluyong City. Sta. Lucia Realty assistant coach Alfrancis Chua, Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao and consultant Kirk Collier will act as trainers. [illegible] in the camp are PBA stars Alvin Patrimonio, Nic Belasco, Kerby Raymundo, Jun Limpot, Willie Miller and John Ariog and national team hopefuls Eric Menk, Danny Seigle, Jeffrey Cariaso, Olsen Racela and Andy Seigle. LA Tenorio, Larry Fonacier and Magnum Membrere of Ateneo, Paul Artadi of UE, Mike Bravo of UP and Arjun Cordero of San Beda will supervise the program. For details, call GrandSlam Sports at 916-1017.

Manila stuns Mandaluyong; chesser dies

KIDAPAWAN CITY—Manila stunned defending champion Mandaluyong, 2.5-1.5, Wednesday to get a piece of the lead after four rounds in the National Inter-Cities and Municipalities chess championship.

The upset win, however, came less shocking than the tragedy that befell Noel Mangilinan, Quezon City B's alternate player.

Mangilinan, who has no known address, collapsed Tuesday afternoon, hours after winning his match. He died in the wee hours of Wednesday at the Davao City hospital.

Tournament arbiter Gene Poliarco said Mangilinan died after an apparent heart attack.

Before he collapsed, Mangilinan was seated on a spectators' bench as he was not fielded for the third round.

North Cotabato Gov. Manny Pinol, who facilitated Mangilinan's transfer to the Davao City hospital, said he would give time for his relatives to claim his body before ordering his burial in Kidapawan.

In the tournament's biggest reversal so far, Mandaluyong, a five-time winner of the event, suffered its first loss despite the expected victory of Grandmaster Joey Antonio in the first board.

National Master Rolly Martinez and Rodolfo Panopio picked up the full points for Manila while Truman Hernandez drew with Edmundo Gatus at board four. Martinez beat International Master Idelfonso Datu while Panopio took the measure of Rustom Tolentino.

Manila now has 3.5 points in a tie with Quezon City A and Muntinlupa A and C.

QC A and Muntinlupa A battled to a 2-all draw while Muntinlupa C edged Davao City, 2.5-1.5.

Grandmaster Eugene Torre scored the lone QC win, besting International Master Nelson Mariano, but Muntinlupa A fought back through Jerome Balico who defeated Ilann Perez at board four.

Bear Brand kitefest in Baguio Sunday

AFTER a short break in observance of the Holy Week, the Bear Brand Kitefest 2002 hits the skies with the staging of the seventh leg in Baguio City on Sunday, April 7.

Venue of the prestigious event sponsored for the 12th straight year by Nestle Philippines is the sprawling Melvin Jones Field.

"We expect another colorful and well-attended weekend for the kite-flying enthusiasts from Baguio City and other nearby cities and provinces," said Leslie Noble, vice president for events of marketing communications agency Publicis-Ama.

However, only residents of Baguio City, Regions 1-5 and National Capital Region are qualified to join. Participants for the elementary, high school and college divisions are requested to present valid school ID upon registration, while entries for the adult level are required to submit valid community tax certificate.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0245 Series of 2002.

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b. Match the 3-digit no. combination with the winning *Caltex Scratcha Numba* combination announced every Monday, Wednesday and Friday between March 18 & June 7, 2002 in the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Philippine Star and posted in all participating Caltex stations. The March 29 (Good Friday) announcement will be moved to March 31 (Easter Sunday). Announcements in local dailies will be made every Saturday within the same period, except on March 30 (Black Saturday).*

c. If the number combination on your game card matches any of the announced winning number combinations in exactly the same order (Ex. 018 does not match 081), you win exactly the cash equivalent of the 3-digit number printed on the card. (Ex. If your number combination is 999 you win ₱999 or if your number combination is 020 you win ₱20)

d. Cash prizes can be claimed at participating Caltex stations from Monday to Friday, from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm, upon surrender of the winning game card.

e. Game cards are subject to validation by the authorized Caltex station representative. Only winning cards with authenticated security code will be honored. Crumpled, defaced and torn game cards or those with scratched security code ("void if scratched" box) will be disqualified.

f. Cash prizes must be claimed within 60 days from the end of the promo period. All unclaimed prizes will be forfeited in favor of Caltex (Philippines) Inc., with prior approval of DTI.

g. Employees of Caltex (Philippines) Inc., participating Caltex stations, McCann-Erickson (Phils.), Inc., Caltex promotions agencies, suppliers, and all their relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the instant promo.

Raffle Draw:

a. Scratch off the raffle box on the scratch card to reveal the cash prize you can win in the raffle. The amount printed on it should be any of the ff: *₱1 million, ₱5 million* or *₱10 million* only.

b. Indicate/write your name, address, tel. no. and/or cell. no. on the raffle stub and sign it. Then drop it in drop boxes located at any of the participating Caltex stations.

c. There will be one (1) raffle draw with (3) winners. If your raffle entry is drawn, you can win exactly the same amount indicated on your drawn winning raffle entry. You can win as much as ₱10 million only.

d. A customer can win only once in the raffle draw. If a name is drawn more than once, the customer shall get the bigger prize.

e. Last day of submission of raffle entries is on June 15, 2002 at 12:00 pm. The Raffle draw will be held on June 30, 2002. The venue and time shall be submitted to DTI and announced two (2) weeks before the draw.

f. All winners will be notified through registered mail.

g. Raffle prizes can be claimed upon presentation of two (2) proper identifications (e.g., driver's license, passport, etc.) and the notification letter.

h. Raffle prizes can be claimed at 7/F 6750 Ayala Ave., 1226 Makati City, Philippines from Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm only.

i. Raffle prizes must be claimed within 60 days upon notification. All unclaimed prizes will be forfeited in favor of Caltex (Philippines) Inc., with prior approval of DTI.

j. The 20% withholding tax on prizes worth ₱1,000,000.00 will be paid for by Caltex (Philippines) Inc. For prizes exceeding ₱1,000,000.00, the winner shall shoulder the 20% withholding tax.

k. Employees of Caltex (Philippines) Inc., participating Caltex stations, McCann-Erickson (Phils.), Inc., Caltex promotions agencies, suppliers and all their relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the raffle promo.

3. Promo period is from March 15, 2002 to June 15, 2002.

*Approved by DTI-NCR.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No.0245 Series of 2002.

Boxers off to Thailand, Europe

TWO teams of Caltex-sponsored boxers left last night for competitions in Thailand, Finland and Lithuania as part of their buildup for the Busan Asian Games in September. Their stints begin today and end on April 16.

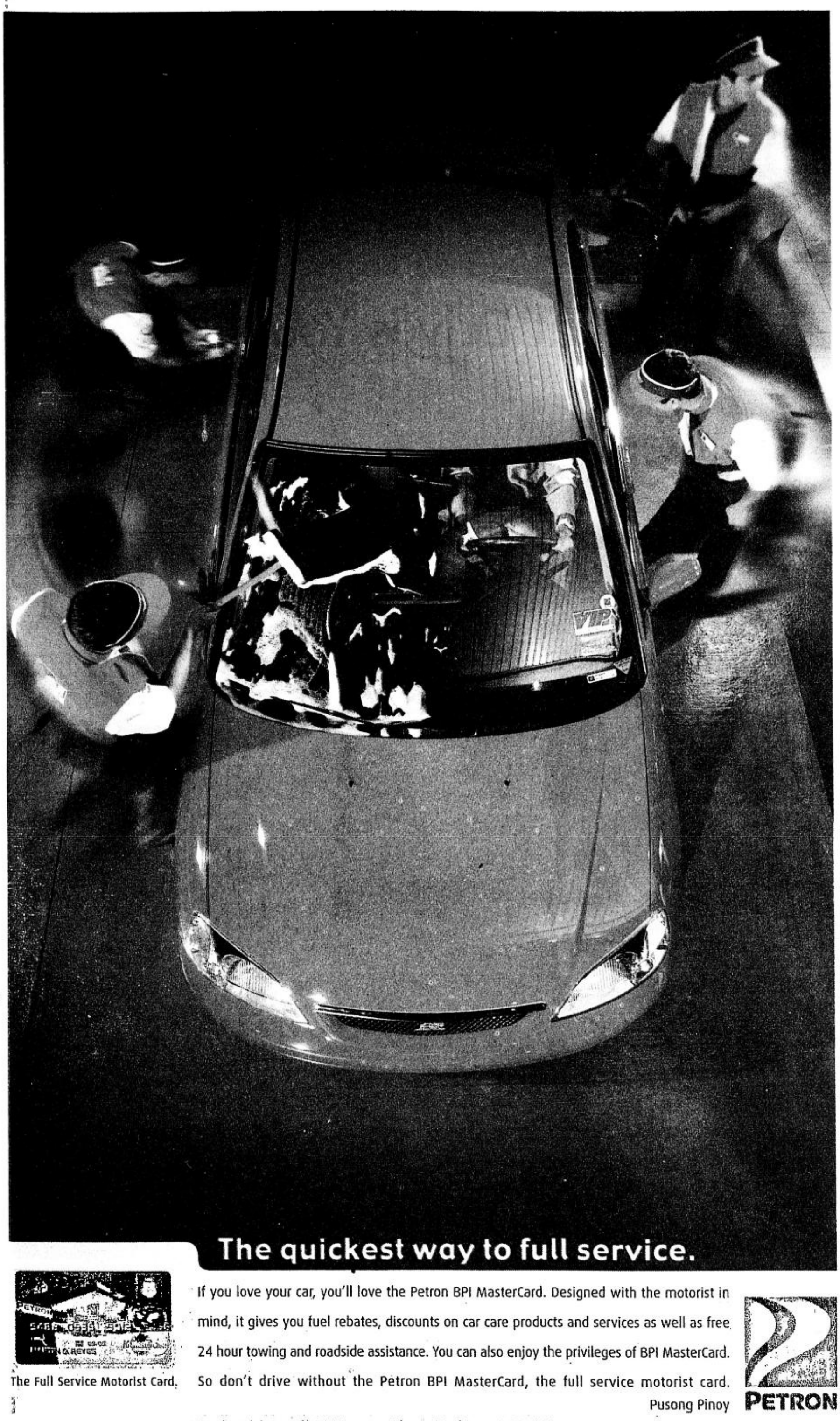
SPORTS

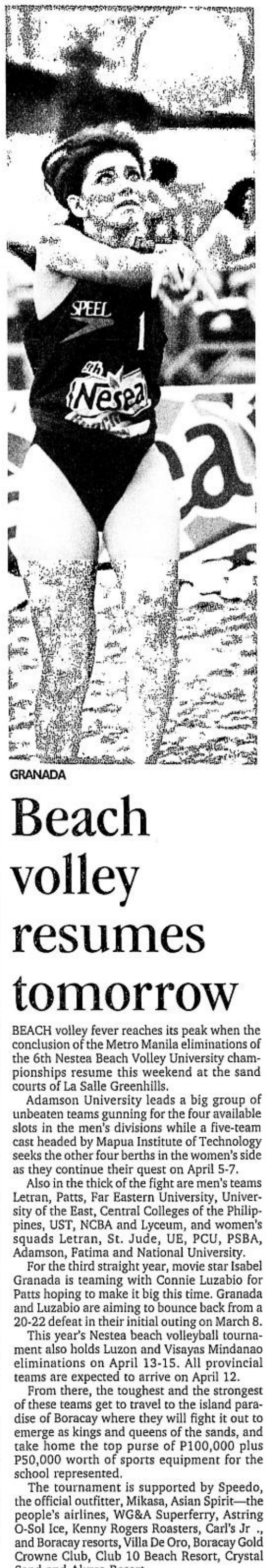
Editor Al S. Mendoza • Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

SPORTS ON TV Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA – LA Lakers vs New Jersey Nets at 10 p.m. on NBN
BASEBALL: Baseball Max at 7:30 a.m. (r) on ESPN
MLB - Atlanta Braves vs Philadelphia Phillies at 8 a.m. (r – 4:30 p.m.), LA Dodgers vs San Francisco Giants at 11 a.m. (r – 8 p.m.) on ESPN
GOLF: Golfglobe 2002 at 11 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

Fil-Am Gonzales stuns Briton, barges into Mitsubishi netfest quarters /A20





GRANADA

Beach volley resumes tomorrow

BEACH volley fever reaches its peak when the conclusion of the Metro Manila eliminations of the 6th Nestea Beach Volley University championships resume this weekend at the sand courts of La Salle Greenhills.

Adamson University leads a big group of unbeaten teams gunning for the four available slots in the men's divisions while a five-team cast headed by Mapua Institute of Technology seeks the other four berths in the women's side as they continue their quest on April 5-7.

Also in the thick of the fight are men's teams Letran, Patts, Far Eastern University, University of the East, Central Colleges of the Philippines, UST, NCBA and Lyceum, and women's squads Letran, St. Jude, UE, PCU, PSBA, Adamson, Fatima and National University.

For the third straight year, movie star Isabel Granada is teaming with Connie Luzabio for Patts hoping to make it big this time. Granada and Luzabio are aiming to bounce back from a 20-22 defeat in their initial outing on March 8.

This year's Nestea beach volleyball tournament also holds Luzon and Visayas Mindanao eliminations on April 13-15. All provincial teams are expected to arrive on April 12.

From there, the toughest and the strongest of these teams get to travel to the island paradise of Boracay where they will fight it out to emerge as kings and queens of the sands, and take home the top purse of P100,000 plus P50,000 worth of sports equipment for the school represented.

The tournament is supported by Speedo, the official outfitter, Mikasa, Asian Spirit—the people's airlines, WG&A Superferry, Astring O-Sol Ice, Kenny Rogers Roasters, Carl's Jr ., and Boracay resorts, Villa De Oro, Boracay Gold Crowne Club, Club 10 Beach Resort, Crystal Sand and Alyssa Resort.

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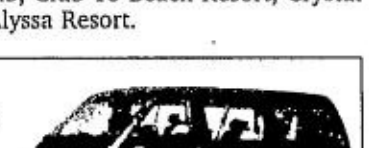

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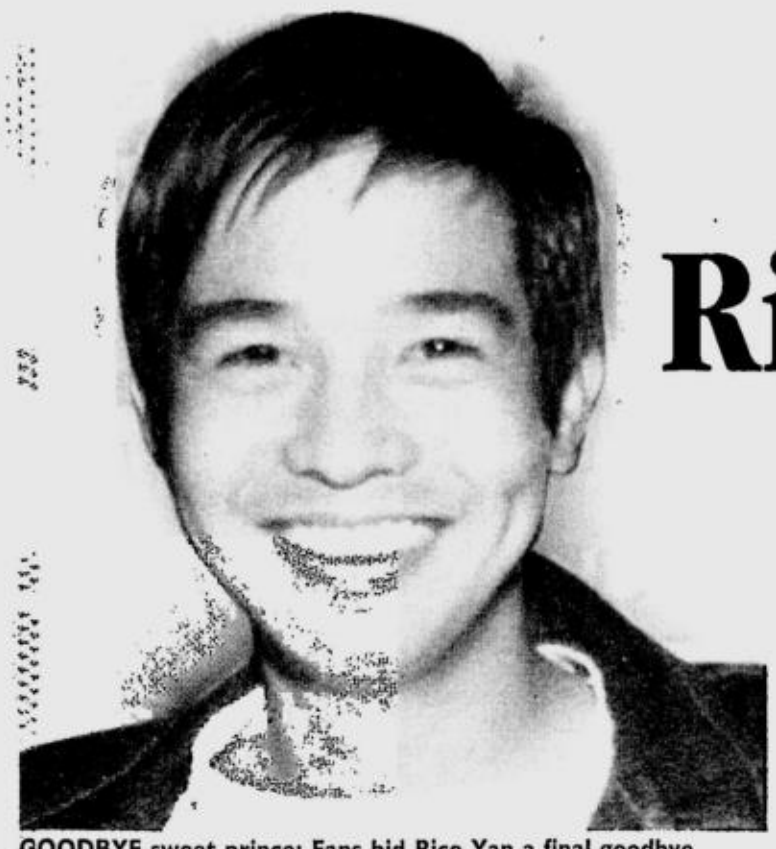
METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

'Rico Yan had many noble plans' /A24



GOODBYE sweet prince: Fans bid Rico Yan a final goodbye today.

Rico burial to clog Edsa

By Christian V. Esguerra

UNLESS you're a die-hard Rico Yan fan, better steer clear of the Edsa-Ortigas area this morning.

Metro Manila Development Authority officials are expecting about 200 vehicles to join the massive motorcade for the late actor's burial today, and this is expected to result in heavy traffic on Edsa.

Since Yan's remains were taken to the La Salle chapel in Greenhills over the weekend, thousands of fans and onlookers have trooped to the area, disrupting traffic flow there.

In a bid to ease traffic congestion in today's burial, the MMDA, together with the Philippine National Police, will deploy over 200 police officers and traffic enforcers to key areas from La Salle to the Manila Memorial Park in Sucat.

The police contingent will be composed of regular units reinforced by 55 traffic officers and six motorcycle units from the Eastern and Southern Police Districts, and the Traffic Management Group.

The motorcade will start on the westbound portion of Ortigas going to Connecticut Street, right after the 9 a.m. Mass at the La Salle Gym, according to a letter to MMDA chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. from Ernesto Camarillo, executive director of the MMDA Tactical Operating Center.

Vehicles will then turn right to Edsa going to the South Luzon Expressway where they will exit at the Sucat Interchange.

The motorcade is expected to clog critical portions of Edsa and Sucat, especially with the projected volume of mourners and spectators wanting to catch a final glimpse of Yan, who died in his sleep in a Palawan resort on Good Friday (see related story on page A24).

Once the motorcade reaches Sucat, around 130 members of the Parañaque police will facilitate traffic and secure the Manila Memorial Park where Yan's remains will be laid to rest.

Medical and emergency vehicles will be on hand to assist those who will attend the funeral, according to the MMDA.

Yesterday morning, a suspected *bukas-kotse* gang member was arrested on La Salle grounds.

Eastern Police District operations chief Julius Ceasar Abenas told the INQUIRER that the suspect, a certain Jun, is now under the custody of the EPD.

The suspect was nabbed just as he was about to break into the car of a couple who attended the wake for the late actor before dawn yesterday, police said.

With a report from Marinel Cruz

It was plain 'misunderstanding'; no charges against Ramon Tulfo

By Nini Valera

SOUTHERN Police District Director Jose Gutierrez yesterday said that the near shootout between Parañaque policemen and INQUIRER columnist and broadcast personality Ramon Tulfo and his four Marine bodyguards was a case of "misunderstanding between two government personnel doing their jobs."

No charges would be filed against Tulfo and his bodyguards, Gutierrez said.

The policemen were in a legitimate operation called Oplan Sita "where we accost suspicious vehicles at random," Gutierrez said.

"That is their mandate. For the Marines, it was the security of Tulfo.

"The issue for me is not Tulfo," he said.

IT WAS/ A24

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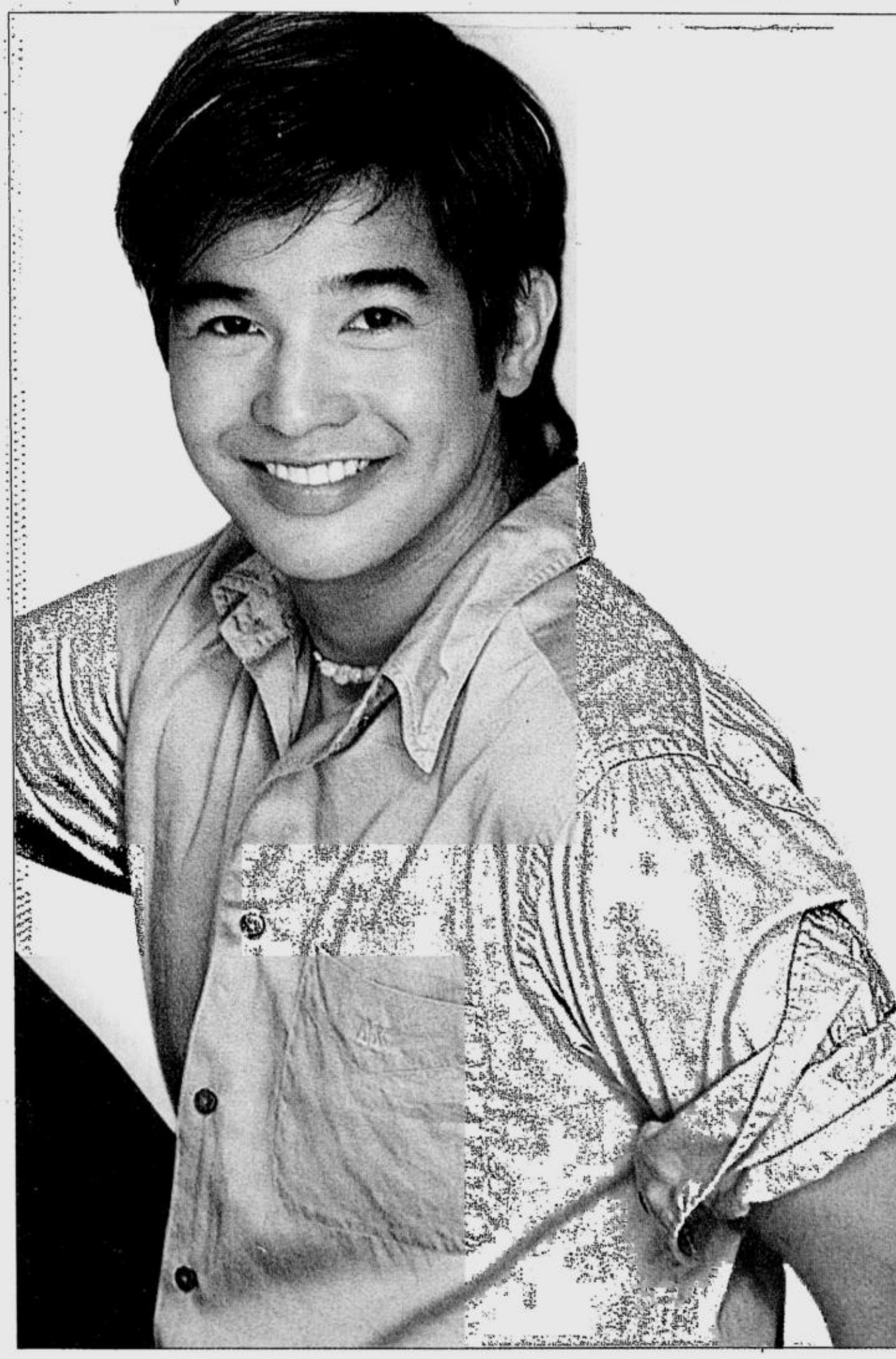


What a man.

What a friend.

Maraming Salamat Rico.

TALK 'N TEXT

'Rico Yan had many noble plans'

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE LATE actor Rico Yan had "many noble plans for the Philippine National Red Cross," according to PNRC chair Rosa Rosal.

"The person to replace you as Red Cross chairperson won't be a woman but a man; and that man would be me," Rosal quoted Yan, who talked to her about his desire to one day head the charitable institution.

"When I asked him when he intends to start, he said, 'I'm just putting up my business, but I promise you, it won't be long,'" Rosal told the INQUIRER yesterday at Yan's wake at the La Salle Greenhills chapel on Ortigas.

Yan endorsed PNRC's "Pledge 25" project, where young blood donors pledged to regularly donate blood three to four times a year, starting at age 18 until they turn 25. Yan was able to donate blood for the PNRC Rizal chapter twice.

"He had been a good spokesperson because he had a heart," Rosal said. "It's hard to accept that he's gone now but I hope he had truly been a good example for the young."

It was also Yan's inspiring civic work that drove Redentora Ronquillo, 54, a resident of Obando, Bulacan, to go to Greenhills and pay her last respects to her "only show biz idol."

With her teenage son in tow, the teary-eyed Ronquillo said she wanted her son to be a socially responsible person just like the actor.

She also spoke of her plan to convince her pregnant daughter-in-law "to name my grandson after Rico."

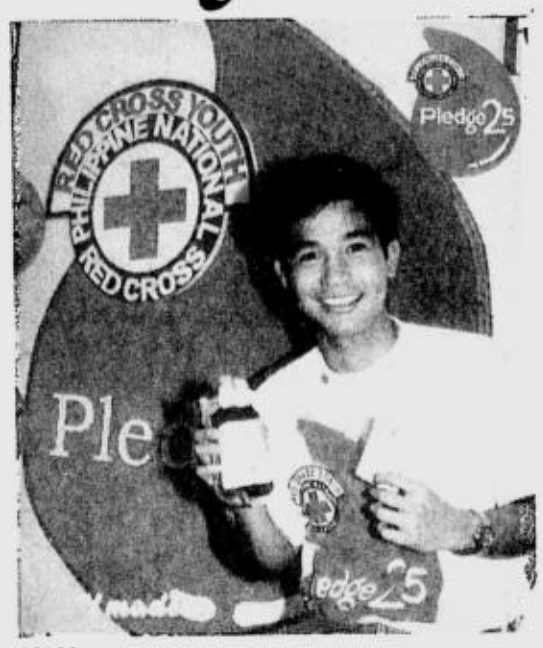
The number of fans who wanted to pay their last respects to the actor swelled to more than 2,000 as of yesterday morning, as the queue of mourning admirers stretched from the gates of De La Salle on Ortigas all the way to Edsa less than a hundred meters away.

Sonia Galon of Mandaluyong waited for almost four hours to catch a glimpse of the late movie star.

"I was here at around 7 a.m. but I only got to see Rico at 11 a.m.," said Galon, who admitted she was a big Rico Yan fan since his Greenwich Pizza commercial days.

Galon said she is proud to be an Ilonggo "just like Rico."

Kathleen Gatchalian, 20, admires Yan because "even if he came from a prominent family, he still worked very hard."



YAN

Wilma Corpuz, Yan's personal assistant for two years, said she was deeply touched when the late actor told her of his plan to buy property in Tanay, Rizal, for her, as well as for his driver Boyet Machika, and bodyguard Jojo Sison.

She said Yan got interested in buying a piece of land in Tanay when he filmed a television commercial in the area.

"He wanted to build a house there for himself, and also planned to buy lots for the three of us," Corpuz said. "We felt happy when we found out that he included us in his plans for the future. We'll surely miss him."

Rosal said the PNRC would assign a Red Cross ambulance manned by a first-aid crew for today's burial at the Manila Memorial Park in Sucat, Parañaque.

"(We will do this) so people will know that Rico's work with us was not in vain and that we recognize him," she said.

Rosal said Yan was not the only actor who shared the Red Cross vision to help those in need. She cited other celebrities such as Gellie de Belen, Ariel Rivera, Richard Gomez and Piolo Pascual.

"And I sincerely hope others will be inspired by these (actors) and really get involved," Rosal said.

Yan was found dead on Friday inside his garden loft at the Dos Palmas Resort in Puerto Princesa, Palawan. He was 27.

Autopsy reports showed he died of hemorrhagic pancreatitis resulting in cardiac arrest.

Yan was a commercial model and an exclusive ABS-CBN talent launched as part of Star Circle Batch '96.

PCGG should be abolished

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

A SWISS court has lifted the freeze on the Swiss bank deposits of four Marcos cronies.

To top it all, the Presidential Commission on Good Government, the agency that keeps tabs on Marcos' hidden wealth, didn't know about the unfreezing order which was issued in January.

By this time, the four Marcos cronies Geronimo Velasco, Carmencita de Borja Clavecilla, Fe Roa and Ignacio Gimenez, and Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez have probably already withdrawn the allegedly ill-gotten money amounting to $20 million.

It's high time the PCGG was abolished and replaced by another much more efficient agency.

***

Even from its early days, the PCGG has been an inefficient agency. Many of its officials and sequestration agents were as corrupt as, if not more corrupt than, the officials of the Marcos regime whose illegal wealth the PCGG was running after.

There's a term for it in Tagalog: bantay-salakay.

A wag once commented that the PCGG should become PCGG, for Presidential Commission for Corrupt Government.

***

Ask the PCGG how much of the hidden wealth abroad belonging to the Marcoses and their cronies has been taken back by the Philippine government on account of its diligence.

Probably just a pittance, if any.

The government spends a lot of money paying foreign lawyers who represent the Philippine government in court battles for the return of illegal wealth to the country. This is not to mention the salaries of the inept PCGG officials and employees.

***

If the PCGG were doing its job, how come almost all the property of Marcos and his cronies were looted and destroyed?

The beach resort in Olot, Leyte, where Imelda Marcos entertained her jetsettier friends, is now a shell of its old self.

PCGG personnel even dug up the land of the Marcos mansions in search of buried treasures.

***

Then President Cory Aquino did not do anything to stop the looting or destruction of Marcos mansions, resorts and other edifices by PCGG and other government personnel

The Marcos mansions and other property could have become tourist attractions. They would have told the world about Marcos' folly, to paraphrase former Tourism Secretary Jose Antonio Gonzales.

But Tita Cory was so blind with anger at the Marcoses she wanted all edifices they had built destroyed.

Tita Cory was the PCGG personified.

***

Deposed President Estrada says he will seek the help of foreign media in exposing the alleged unfair treatment he's receiving from this government since the local media are biased against him.

Who will listen to him in the foreign media?

If ever the foreign media will use Erap's stories, it's just to make fun of him because of his "carabao" English.

***

Erap is generalizing when he says all local media are biased against him.

How can ABS-CBN, the largest TV news network, be biased against him when his daughter by Sen. Loi Ejercito, Jackie, is married to a scion of the lopezes who own ABS-CBN?

How can he accuse Malaya, a nationally circulated daily, of being biased against him?

Erap has become paranoid probably because of his long incarceration.

***

The New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists says that Mindanao is the most dangerous place for journalists.

It could have been worse had Erap not been ousted. It would not only have been only Mindanao, it could also have been Metro Manila.

The infamous Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force planned to assassinate journalists who were writing adverse stories about it. Camp Crame sources told this writer after Erap's ouster.

***

In fact, the PAOCTF ordered one of its agents to try to kill a tabloid reporter who was writing very damaging stories about the police agency. The reporter, however, survived when he shot it out with his would-be assassin.

The would-be assassin was arrested by the police and turned over to Camp Crame, where he died a mysterious death.

That was probably the reason many reporters who covered the Philippine National Police under then Director General Panlilo Lacson were too timid to write adverse stories about Lacson and his cohorts. They sensed that their lives were in danger.

5 men draw life 9 years after Marikina rape-slay

By Nelson Flores

A PASIG City Regional Trial Court judge yesterday sentenced to life imprisonment five men who were found guilty of raping and killing Rosilyn Federico in Marikina City in 1993.

In a 25-page decision, Judge Leile Acebo said brothers Ramon Dela Paz and Adorable Dela Paz, Joel Borlon, Allan Florentino, and Zaldy Dela Paz were found guilty beyond reasonable doubt of committing the crime of multiple rape with homicide.

The conviction came almost nine years after Federico was raped and killed.

But another suspect in the Federico case, Melvin Magbanua, is still at large. Another suspect, Edwin Habla, was cleared of all criminal and civil liabilities after he volunteered to testify against the other accused.

In sentencing the accused, Acebo said the five men failed to put up a convincing defense against the prosecution evidence, which included the signed extra-judicial confession of the accused, detailing the crime, and their public admission of guilt before members of the press at the headquarters of the National Bureau of Investigation and the Marikina City Jail.

Aside from the prison term, Acebo ordered each of the accused to pay the Federico family the amount of P1.186 million in actual, moral and exemplary damages, and loss of earning capacity.

More than 40 people, including Rosilyn's parents, Faustino and Sherlina, and members of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption, witnessed the promulgation. People shouted and wept when Acebo pronounced the guilt of the accused.

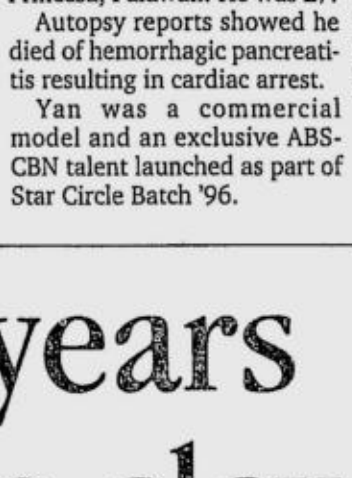
Despite the favorable ruling, Faustino said he was not satisfied because the process took so long. He said the suspects should have been convicted long ago, and criticized the former judge handling the case, Judge Santiago Ranada Jr., for "unjustly acquitting" the accused some years back.

Court records showed Ranada acquitted all of the accused after he refused to accept as evidence the extra-judicial confessions of three of the accused and their admission of guilt before members of the press, reversing an earlier ruling made by RTC Judge Eugenio Labitoria, who admitted the extra-judicial confession as evidence.

On appeal, the Supreme Court overturned Ranada's decision and paved the way for a new trial.

The rape-slay case took a heavy toll on the Federico family. According to Faustino, he was forced to mortgage their 183-square meter residential lot twice just to finance their fight for justice. He lamented how he never got back his old job at the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia after his daughter was found dead.

"Now that we have a favorable ruling, I hope we could start our life anew," Faustino tearfully said.


RAMON de la Paz, one of five convicted in 1993 rape-slay, signals from inside police van

Baseco Compound calamity area

By Jerome Aning and Philip C. Tubeza

THE MANILA City Council placed the Baseco Compound in Tondo under a state of calamity in support of the ongoing relief and rehabilitation work on the fire-ravaged area.

The city's 38 councilors on Tuesday all voted to pass the resolution during a special session summoned by Mayor Lito Atienza.

Atienza's son Councilor Alejandro "Kim" Atienza and Councilor Cita Astals, both of the city's fifth district, authored the measure.

By placing Baseco under a state of calamity, the mayor's office could lawfully release the much-needed calamity funds for the relief and rehabilitation efforts, the younger Atienza said.

The resolution also declared support for Atienza's development plans for the area.

The mayor earlier announced that the reclamation work at the southeast and west portions of Baseco would be finished in a month.

Revision of contested Pasig precincts starts

THE HOUSE of Representatives Electoral Tribunal (HRET) has started proceedings for the revision of ballots for the lone congressional district of Pasig City after getting the go-signal from the Supreme Court recently.

The revision, which involves more than 370 contested precincts, actually commenced last March 25 and is expected to be finished within this week, according to HRET sources.

In an en banc resolution dated Feb. 5, 2002 and received by the HRET on March 1, 2002, the High Tribunal dismissed the petition for certiorari filed by protestee and incumbent Representative Henry Lanot against the HRET and his political opponent and protestant Noel M. Cariño.

Bulacan diocese hits DENR for non-action vs polluter

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

THE CATHOLIC Diocese of Malolos yesterday expressed "great alarm" over the delayed action of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources on the appeal of residents of Plaridel, Bulacan to close a company dumping industrial toxic wastes there.

"The DENR has not ordered its closure or pressed any charges even when (it is) faced with protests (from the residents) for more than a year," Fr. Jun Roxas, chair of the Diocesan Ecological and Environmental Program (Deep), said.

Environmental Management Bureau officials said they were still reviewing EMII's case. According to EMB engineers, company officials have renewed commitments to comply with environmental laws and the conditions set under the firm's environmental compliance certificate (ECC).

The EMB, however, has issued two notices of violations and three suspension orders on the company since September last year.

These pertained to the illegal construction of a waste treatment plant, illegal transport, improper storage and improper labeling of wastes in its facilities in Barangay Sipat, Plaridel and in Barangay Patubig in Marilao, Bulacan, DENR documents obtained by the Inquirer showed.

The DENR in February last year issued the EMII an ECC allowing the firm to treat and store 5,000 drums of liquid wastes and 500 tons of solid wastes between 2001 and 2005.

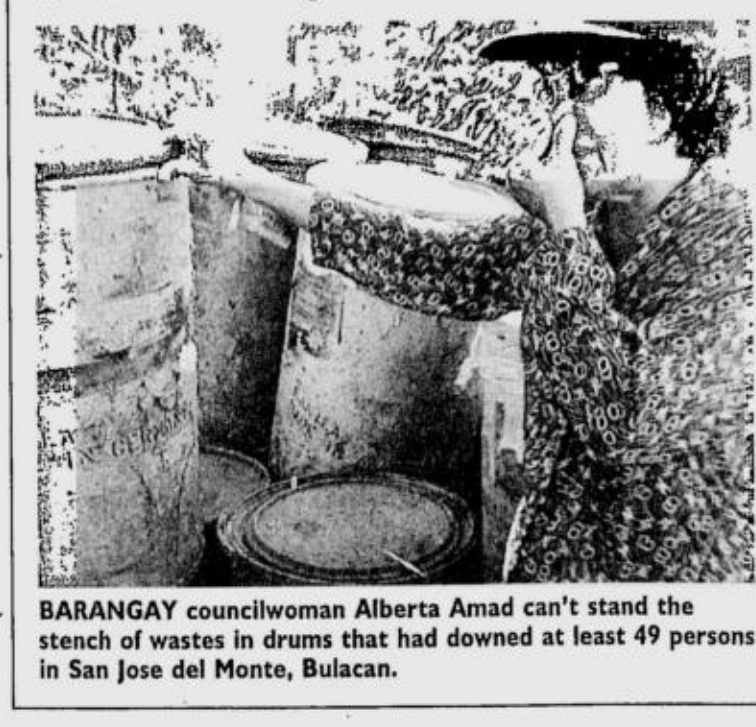
Roxas said the company's compliance had not been the issue among the residents.

"They (residents) are concerned about their health, their communities and their environment. Their position was uncompromising right from the very start. They don't want it (EMII) in their midst," he said.

According to Roxas, DENR's alleged inaction on the appeal of the residents has prompted them to start a signature campaign asking Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez anew to stop the firm from constructing and operating a waste treatment facility in Sipat.

More than 1,000 residents in Barangays Sipat, Rueda, Lagundi and Dampol have initially signed the petition, copies of which were presented by Bulacan priests to the EMB here on Tuesday and to Alvarez last Monday.

Roxas said the signature campaign likewise came on the heels of the illegal dumping of hazardous wastes in San Jose del Monte City on March 26. At least 49 scavengers, mostly children, were treated for air poisoning.


BARANGAY councilwoman Alberta Amad can't stand the stench of wastes in drums that had downed at least 49 persons in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan.

It was plain...

(From page A23)

"It's between the Marines and the police. They had a misunderstanding. I talked to both groups, and what I told them was next time, during a legitimate operation like Oplan Sita, they should not resist. It should also be clear that during 'Oplan Sita,' cops should be in complete uniform to avoid this kind of misunderstanding."

Gutierrez admitted that some of the policemen were in civilian attire. He said they were also deployed mainly for petty criminals like cell phone thieves.

Tulfo and his bodyguards claimed that one of the policemen who flagged down their back-up vehicle was not in uniform, but was carrying an M-16 Armalite, which he pointed at two of the Marines.

Tulfo and his bodyguards were in two vehicles at the Sucat Interchange in Parañaque on Tuesday when Parañaque policemen flagged down the back-up vehicle, a blue Toyota Revo, for violating the Metro Manila Development Authority's color-coding scheme.

Tulfo's bodyguards, Sgt. Diokno Tuquero, who was driving the back-up vehicle, and Sgt. Regino Mendoza, who was in the front seat of the Revo, said the incident turned into an armed confrontation after PO1 Angelito Rivera, who was not in uniform, flashed his M-16 Armalite and told them to get out of the vehicle.

Tuquero said he tried to explain to the policemen that they were Marines assigned as Tulfo's bodyguards and even showed them a press card from Tulfo's television show "Isumbong Mo Kay Tulfo" that identified them as security personnel of Tulfo.

But the policemen refused to believe them and said the press card was only their front and that they could be holdup men, Tuquero said.

Mendoza said he managed to disarm Rivera and PO1 Felix Dayag, who was also about to pull his gun. He said the group also wrested the guns of P1O Antony Eblahan and PO1 Edwin Plopino.

Almario, 78

POTENCIANO Magpayo Almario, who died on March 31, will be buried today. Almario, 78, is survived by his wife Luisa and children Rolando, Wilfredo, Manolo, Romulo, Zenaida, Amelia, Mercy, Carol and Lydia; grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Interment will be at Manila North Cemetery.

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7	ITLOG
8	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO

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1	BLADE 2
2	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
3	CROSS ROAD
4	EVIL WOMAN
5	E.T.
6	ITLOG
7	ICE AGE
8	TIME MACHINE
9	HARI NG SELDA
10	GOT 2 BELIEVE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
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1	TIME MACHINE
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3	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
4	E.T.
5	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
6	CROSS ROAD
7	ICE AGE
8	BLADE 2
9	HARI NG SELDA
10	ITLOG
11	GOT 2 BELIEVE
12	EVIL WOMAN

SM CITY MANILA
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1	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
2	ICE AGE
3	EVIL WOMAN
4	CROSS ROAD
5	BLADE 2
6	E.T.
7	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
8	ITLOG
9	HARI NG SELDA
10	GOT 2 BELIEVE
11	TIME MACHINE
12	BLADE 2

SM MEGAMALL
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1	BLADE 2
2	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
3	E.T.
4	ICE AGE
5	CROSS ROAD
6	TIME MACHINE
7	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
8	ITLOG
9	HARI NG SELDA
10	BLADE 2
11	EVIL WOMAN
12	GOT 2 BELIEVE

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	TIME MACHINE
2	BLADE 2
3	ITLOG
4	HARI NG SELDA
5	E.T.
6	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
7	ICE AGE
8	E.T.
9	CLOSED
10	CLOSED
11	CLOSED
12	CLOSED

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

1	ICE AGE
2	CROSS ROAD
3	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
4	BLADE 2
5	GOT 2 BELIEVE
6	ITLOG
7	HARI NG SELDA
8	E.T.
9	TIME MACHINE
10	EVIL WOMAN

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1	D-TOX
2	WE WERE SOLDIERS
3	NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
4	E.T.
5	13 GHOSTS
6	E.T.
7	HARI NG SELDA
8	ICE AGE

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
2	CLOSED
3	ICE AGE
4	HARI NG SELDA
5	WE WERE SOLDIERS
6	E.T.
7	CLOSED
8	NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	ICE AGE
2	E.T.
3	TIME MACHINE
4	ITLOG
5	CROSS ROAD
6	HARI NG SELDA

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	ICE AGE
2	BLADE 2
3	HARI NG SELDA
4	TIME MACHINE

SM CINEMA GUADALUPE
8820984

1	HARI NG SELDA
2	TIME MACHINE
3	BLADE 2

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	TIME MACHINE
2	ICE AGE
3	BLADE 2
4	HARI NG SELDA

SM CITY DAVAO
2976696

1	E.T.
2	HARI NG SELDA
3	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
4	D-TOX
5	NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
6	ICE AGE

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3	STATE-OF-THE-ART
4	VISION & SOUND

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2 (SDDS)	TIME MACHINE
3 (DTS)	ICE AGE
4 GOLD (DTS)	E.T.
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	CROSS ROAD
6 GOLD (SDDS)	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	EVIL WOMAN
8	HARI NG SELDA
9	GOT 2 BELIEVE
10	BANDITS

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
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1	HARI NG SELDA
2	RESERVE
3 (DTS)	ICE AGE
4	RESERVE
5	ITLOG
6 (DTS)	TIME MACHINE

Golden Pearl THX

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2	ICE AGE
3	BLADE 2

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1	HARI NG SELDA
2	BLADE 2
3	ICE AGE
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TIME MACHINE
5	ITLOG

METROPOLIS star
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1	TIME MACHINE
2	ITLOG
3	HARI NG SELDA
4	BLADE 2
5	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
6	ICE AGE
7	
8	

PREMIERE CINEMA
(Makati City) TEL. 751-2010 TO 13

1	E.T.

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	RIDING IN CARS W/ BOYS
2	OCEAN ELEVEN

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1	ANG GUSTO KO SA LALAKE
2	ITLOG
3	SENSUAL

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1 A	ITLOG TIME MACHINE

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	TIME MACHINE
2	HARI NG SELDA
3	SNAKE CHARMER
4	RESERVE

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	HARI NG SELDA
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
5	EVIL WOMAN
6	ICE AGE
7 (DTS)	E.T.
8 (SDDS)	TIME MACHINE
9 (DOLBY)	BLADE 2

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	HARI NG SELDA

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	ITLOG
2	HARI NG SELDA
3	CROSS ROAD
4 (SDDS)	TIME MACHINE
5	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
6 (DOLBY)	BLADE 2
7 (DTS)	E.T.
8	ICE AGE
9	EVIL WOMAN

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	TIME MACHINE
2	EVIL WOMAN
3	ITLOG
4	ICE AGE
5 (SDDS)	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
6	HARI NG SELDA
7 (DOLBY)	BLADE 2
8	E.T.

Gotesco Ortigas
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MARINETPLACE tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

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3	TIME MACHINE

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3	RESERVE

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1 (DOLBY)	BLADE 2
2	TIME MACHINE
3	ITLOG
4	HARI NG SELDA
5	ICE AGE

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite

1	HARI NG SELDA
2	ITLOG

Berma
tel 879.2029

1	HARI NG SELDA
2	TIME MACHINE

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	
2	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 ; 534.2198

1	HARI NG SELDA
2	TIME MACHINE
3 (DTS)	ITLOG

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	HARI NG SELDA
2 (DTS)	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
3 (DOLBY)	TIME MACHINE
4	E.T.

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	HARI NG SELDA
2 (DOLBY)	TIME MACHINE
3 (DTS)	E.T.
4	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	HARI NG SELDA
2	BANDITS
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	GOT 2 BELIEVE
2	HARI NG SELDA
3 (DOLBY)	D-TOX
4 (DTS)	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	HARI NG SELDA
2	TIME MACHINE
3	ITLOG
4 (DTS)	BLADE 2

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	TIME MACHINE
2	HARI NG SELDA
3 (DTS)	ICE AGE
4	ITLOG
5	E.T.

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	HARI NG SELDA
2	E.T.
3	TIME MACHINE

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1	TIME MACHINE
2	HARI NG SELDA
3	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	D-TOX
2	EVA
3	GOT 2 BELIEVE

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	HARI NG SELDA
2	ICE AGE
3	RESERVE

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	HARI NG SELDA
2 (DTS)	ITLOG

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	BIBINGKA
2	BANDITS
3	HARI NG SELDA

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	ICE AGE
2	WE WERE SOLDIERS
3	D-TOX
4	HARI NG SELDA

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	ICE AGE
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3	BLADE 2
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7	RIPPER
8	HARI NG SELDA
9	TIME MACHINE
10	ITLOG

Ermita
536 -7809- 12

1	BLADE 2
2	E.T.
3	HARI NG SELDA
4	EVIL WOMAN
5	CROSS ROAD
6	ICE AGE
7	TIME MACHINE

Metro East - Marcos Hway
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1	EVIL WOMAN
2	E.T.
3	HARI NG SELDA
4	ICE AGE
5	TIME MACHINE
6	BLADE 2
7	CROSS ROAD
8	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO

Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30

1	EVIL WOMAN
2	E.T.
3	HARI NG SELDA
4	ICE AGE
5	BLADE 2
6	TIME MACHINE
7	CROSS ROAD
8	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO

Imus
471 - 8188 / 875- 3838

1	BLADE 2
2	HARI NG SELDA
3	ICE AGE
4	TIME MACHINE
5	E.T.
6	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO

Bacolod
441 - 0453 / 0459

1	WE WERE SOLDIERS
2	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
3	JIMMY NEUTRON
4	D-TOX
5	NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
6	RAT RACE

Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78

1	WE WERE SOLDIERS
2	ICE AGE
3	HARI NG SELDA
4	NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
5	EVA
6	E.T.

Star Mills- San Fernando, Pamp.
875- 1927
961-5318 / 5270

1	ICE AGE
2	TIME MACHINE
3	HARI NG SELDA
4	ITLOG
5	CROSS ROAD
6	CROSS ROAD

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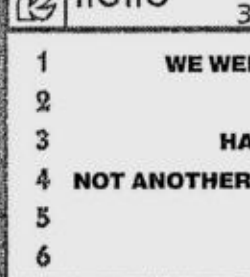

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MTV, Penshoppe announce Youth Council members

AFTER a three-month campaign, MTV and Penshoppe recently announced the 10 members that will comprise the MTV and Penshoppe Youth Council.

The announcement was done at Che bar in Rockwell Center recently.

The male members are Marco Lobregat, Uriah Vanden Bos, Richard Lozano, Brad Turvey and Terence Koa.

The female members are Kelly Misa, Danielle Mendoza, Kathleen Hilario, Nicole Schulze and Leila Lee Kuzma.

The MTV and Penshoppe Youth Council Search, which is presented by Cali and I-Academy, is unique in that it is both a search for image models and ambassadors of goodwill at the same time.

"Being in the Council is not all glamour and prestige," says Rod Nepomuceno, MTV Philippines marketing and communications director. "We constantly remind The Council members that being selected is not a right, but a privilege and, to a certain extent, a responsibility.

"They will be busy doing a lot of socio-civic activities such as visiting orphanages and homes for the aged. They will also come up with statements in causes that they all believe in."

SOME of the members of the Youth Council.

MTRCB RATING R Restricted — Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

Wild, sexy new comedy!

'Evil Woman' NOW SHOWING !

In the tradition of their hit laugh-a-minute movies, **Jason Biggs** of **AMERICAN PIE**, **Jack Black** of **SHALLOW HAL** and **Steve Zahn** of **DR. DOLITTLE 2** join comic forces in the hot and sexy new comedy from Columbia Pictures, EVIL WOMAN.

Darren (Biggs), Wayne (Zahn) and J.D. (Black) have been best of friends since 5th grade. They swore nothing could come between them...un til she came along.

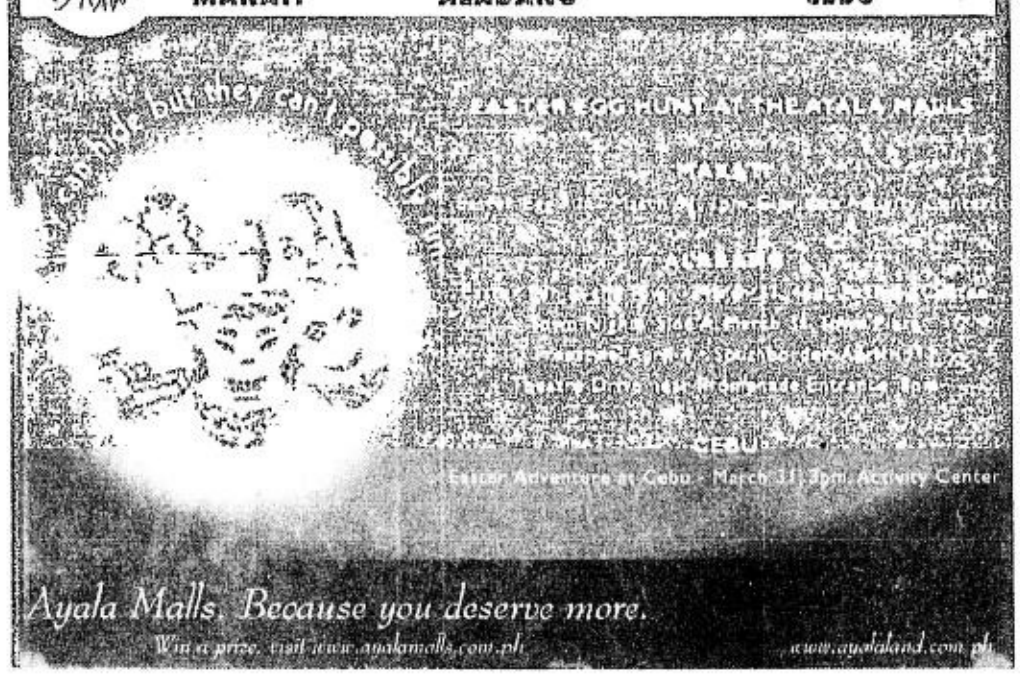
Judith (Amanda Peet) sizzles with sex appeal but is really a cold-hearted and manipulative bitch. She digs her claws into Darren and snatches him from the friendship!

Darren must be rescued at all cost from the clutches of the evil woman, launching a series of side-splitting misadventures. **(Rated R for nudity and sexual humor.)**

AYALA CINEMAS NOW SHOWING
YOUR 24 HOUR LINK TO ALL AYALA CINEMAS • 729-7777

G1 (GLORIETTA 1)	G4 (GLORIETTA 4)	GB1 (GREENBELT 1)	ATC (ALABANG TOWN CENTER)
1 HARI NG SELDA	1 E.T.	4 EVIL WOMAN	1 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
2 THE TIME MACHINE	2 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO	5 TIME MACHINE	2 BLADE 2
3 BLADE 2	3 BLADE 2	6 ICE AGE	3 ICE AGE
4 ICE AGE	7 CROSS ROAD	1 GET WELL SOON	4 TIME MACHINE
	GUARANTEED SEATS	2 ICE AGE	5 E.T.
		3 BLADE 2	
		4 LANI ON SATGE APRIL 12, 13, 19, 20, 26 & 27 9:00 PM	

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS
MAKATI ALABANG CEBU



REVENGE HAS NEVER BEEN SWEETER!
NOW SHOWING

MTRCB PG-13 — Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

CROSS ROADS - P 13 11:20, 1:35, 3:30, 5:35, 7:40, 9:45	E.T. - GP 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00	ICE AGE - GP 12:20, 2:10, 4:00, 5:50, 7:40, 9:30
COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO - P 13 11:05, 1:40, 4:15, 6:59, 9:30	THE TIME MACHINE - P 13 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:35, 9:50	BLADE 2 - P 13 12:40, 3:05, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri., 11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

OPENS APRIL 10!

MTRCB PG-13 — Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

MTRCB R-18 Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

3-TAON NABILIBID
NGAYON, MAY KWENTONG IHAHATID!
ANGELIKA DELA CRUZ
ROBIN PADILLA

See it first!
SM CINEMA
ADVANCE SCREENING

MTRCB RATING: GP

Invitational DWTM Screening on April 4, 2002 • 7:30 pm
SM Megamall Cinema 4

Regular showing on April 10 at the SM CINEMAS.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	CROSS ROAD
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	HARI NG SELDA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	BLADE 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	TIME MACHINE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	ICE AGE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	E.T.
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	EVIL WOMAN
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	BLADE 2
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	HUBOG / TOO MUCH FLESH
ODEON	HARI NG SELDA
ODEON-2	TIME MACHINE
ROBEN	ITLOG
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	HARRY POTTER / PHOSSFO

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	ITLOG
REMAR	HARI NG SELDA
REMAR-2	ITLOG

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	HARI NG SELDA
B	ITLOG
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	TIME MACHINE
CINEMA-2	ICE AGE

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	HARI NG SELDA
CINEMA-2	JOHN O
CINEMA-3	THE MAJESTIC
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BLADE 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	JIMMY NEUTRON
CINEMA-6	GOT 2 BELIEVE
CINEMA-7	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
CINEMA-8	BANDITS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TIME MACHINE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BLADE 2
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	ICE AGE
CINEMA-12	ICE AGE
CINEMA-14	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
CINEMA-15	HARI NG SELDA

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	CROSS ROAD
CINEMA-2	E.T.
CINEMA-3	ICE AGE
CINEMA-4	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
CINEMA-5	THE TIME MACHINE
CINEMA-6	BLADE 2

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

New production outfit enters the film scene

THE LOCAL movie industry may be in a slump, but this did not hinder lawyer Romy Sevilla and businesswoman Violeta Sevilla to launch a production outfit.

The couple is behind Violett Films, which will release its initial venture, "Cass and Cary (Who Wants To Be a Billionaire)."

The light comedy stars Bayani Agbayani with former Streetboys member Vhong Navarro, Gladys Reyes, Gloria Romero, Tonton Gutierrez and Long Mejia.

"We don't want to think of the negative vibes," says Madam Violet, a moniker given by the media apparently patterned after Regal Films' Mother Lily Monteverde and FLT Films' Mommy Rose Flaminiano.

"We may be new in this business, but we promise to give it our best shot as producers," Madam Violet adds.

For Atty. Sevilla, the movie industry is worth investing in.

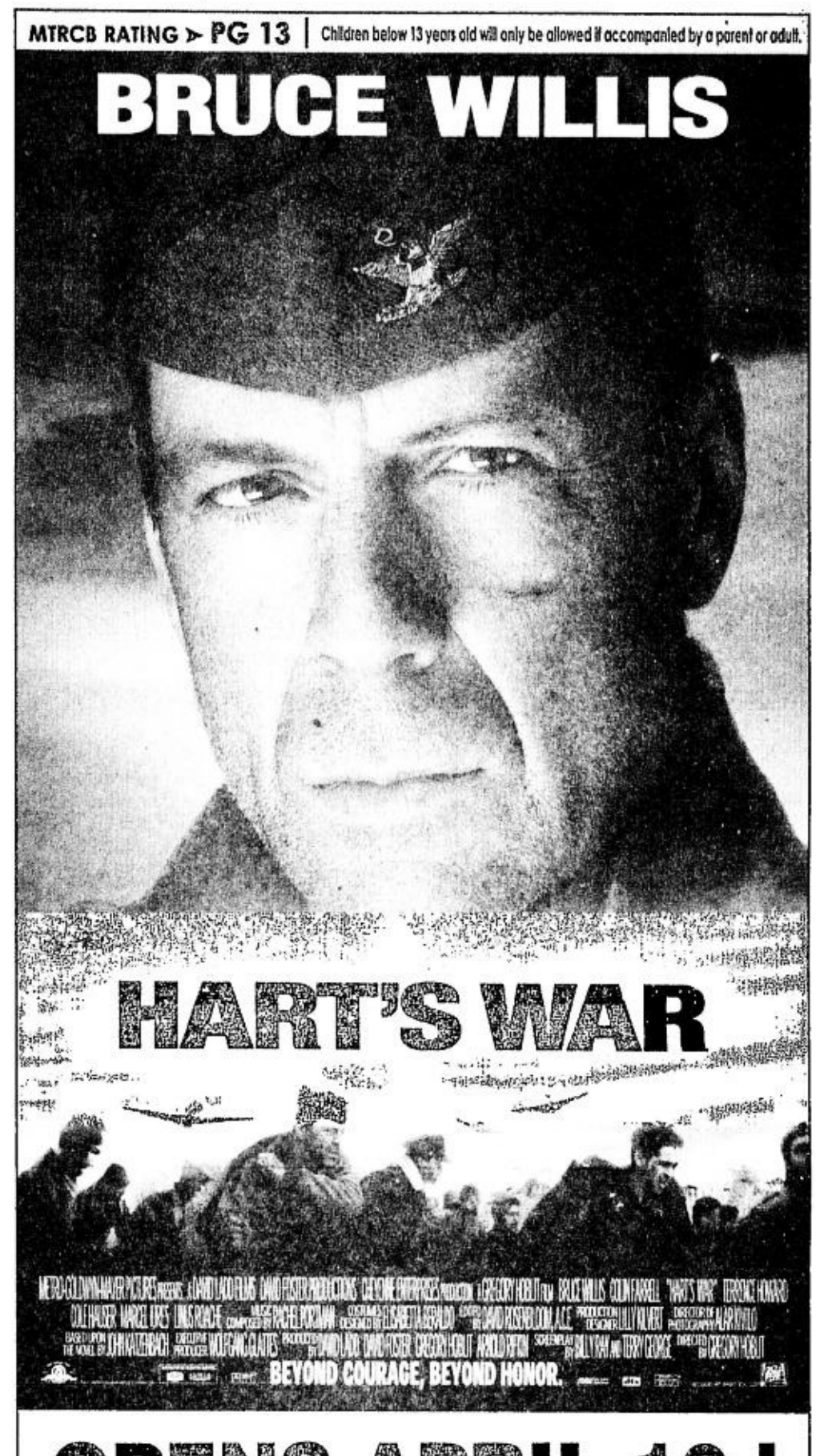
"There are many opportunities to help people and learn the trade," he says. "There are many ways for a movie to earn at the box office and one is to give moviegoers a film that is worth their time and money."

As producers, the couple believes one formula that works at the tills is a good casting.

With the comic prowess of Bayani and Vhong, the first-time producers are confident they have a potential box office hit in their initial production venture.

Bayani has done movies with the likes of Eddie Garcia, Rufa Mae Quinto, so being elevated to lead star status is not at all surprising.

LADY producer Madam Violet and comedian Bayani Agbayani at the blessing of Violett Films.



De Niro film on video

AMERICA'S deadliest cop is about to meet his match as C-Interactive Digital Entertainment with Wave 89.1, releases the action thriller, "15 Minutes," starring Academy Award winner Robert de Niro and Edward Burns (of "Saving Private Ryan" fame).

The story starts when two ex-cons, Oleg and Emil, from the Czech Republic arrive in New York and discover that American criminals are practically celebrities, enjoying widespread media coverage on TV talk shows and tabloid front pages.

Driven by his desire for fame, Oleg steals a video camera and embarks on a "snuff film" of grisly and epic proportions.

By selling their twisted, homicidal docu-drama to the press, Oleg plans to thrust himself and Emil into the spotlight as America's newest and richest crime sensations. But stealing the thunder from them is New York's most respected arson investigator, Jordy Warsaw.

With the unlikely help of Eddie Fleming, New York's most televised police detective, they are hot on the trail of the sinister duo.

What ensues is an elaborate, action-packed game of cat and mouse through the mean streets of New York.

Directed by John Herzfeld, "15 Minutes" is available on both the VHS and VCD formats.

For original copies, call the customer care hotline at 245-5011 to 12 (Manila), (032) 412-1948 in Cebu and (082) 221-0405 in Davao.

DE NIRO

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Journeys into the warp and woof of time

THE LATEST film version of **H.G. Wells**' "The Time Machine" is a flawed production, but its "time travel" montages are among the best we've seen.

With a lot of help from digital animators, director **Simon Wells** (he's H.G.'s great-grandson, how's that for generational continuity?) is able to make his protagonist's journeys into the warp and woof of time both believable and thrilling.

Other aspects of the movie are less successful, however. We "buy" the initial situation of a brilliant scientist and inventor who wants to alter past events to foil the killing of his beloved fiancée. But, after he finds himself in the distant future, he gets involved in a completely new conflict, so the movie ends up lacking thematic unity.

We like the way that the production has captured the period look at the turn of the century, but after the scientist's fiancée is shot by a stick-up artist, things become messy.

In the very distant (800,000 years!) future, the Morlocks, an evolved race, rule the world, emerging from their underground cities only to hunt down the few surviving humans who live in nest-like homes on steep cliff walls.

They are controlled by the Uber-Morlock (**Jeremy Irons**), and it is this all-powerful superruler whom the time-traveling scientist (**Guy Pearce**) must fight in order to liberate the humans in general, and his new lady love (**Samantha Mumba**), in particular.

Nestor U. Torre

This futuristic section of the movie is visually interesting, but its plot development is leaden and disjointed. The film recovers from its radical change of tone and plot.

Irons and Pearce are good actors, but their best efforts can't save the picture. Those time travel sequences are a quicksilver feast for the eye and imagination, though.

Jack Black in 'Evil Woman'

AFTER doing so well in "High Fidelity" and "Shallow Hal," comedian **Jack Black** is back on the big screen in "Evil Woman."

In the movie, Black and **Steven Zahn** suspect that their best friend (**Jason Biggs**) is being badgered into marrying the scheming **Amanda Peet**, who plays a woman he doesn't really love. They decide to reunite Biggs from his long-lost love (**Amanda Detmer**), even if they have to kidnap Peet's character to do it.

Black plays J.D., the dumbest of the three best friends. When he isn't making people laugh, he composes songs and fronts for his own band, Tenacious D.

April highlights on Star Movies

ON SUNDAY Megamovie (at 9 p.m.) on Star Movies: April 7, "What Lies Beneath" with **Harrison Ford** and **Michelle Pfeiffer**. **Robert Zemeckis**' suspense-thriller shows how an ostensibly wonderful marriage is eventually shattered by deceit and murder.

April 14, "Supernova" with **James Spader** and **Angela Bassett**.

April 21, "Who Framed Roger Rabbit?" with **Bob Hoskins** and **Christopher Lloyd**. Roger Rabbit is a lovable 'Toon star who becomes the key suspect in a sensational murder case. As a result, everyone deserts him—including his own wife, Jessica.

His only hope is a has-been private detective, Eddie Valiant (Hoskins). Together, they uncover a plot by the fiendish Judge Doom (Lloyd) to destroy all 'Toons and hold Los Angeles in his tyrannical grip. Replay on April 26.

April 28, "Being John Malkovich," with **John Cusack**, **Cameron Diaz** and **John Malkovich**. A man discovers a room that leads inside the head of actor John Malkovich. There, he can see life through Malkovich's eyes before he is ejected from the room.

He then rents out Malkovich's head to others, eventually letting his wife inside. There, she falls in love with another woman, who in turn thinks she has fallen in love with Malkovich!

New series

BEGINNING April 6 on Star world, "Walker, Texas Ranger" airs Saturdays at 6 p.m.

Texas Ranger Cordell Walker (**Chuck Norris**) is one of the last old-fashioned heroes of the West. Drawing on the customs of his Native American ancestors and the rugged traditions of the Old West, Walker is on a relentless crusade for truth and honor.

Along with his partner James Trivette, county assistant district attorney Alex Cahill and retired Ranger C.D. Parker, Walker is determined to serve justice, whatever the cost may be.

In the April 6 episode, "Higher Power," a young boy who is believed to be the reincarnation of a Tibetan Lama is the target of a pursuer who is the reincarnation of a man who was humiliated by the Lama many years ago.

Feedback

FROM **Elise Regalado** of Makati City: "Congratulations to **Billy Crawford** for his success on the show biz scene in the US and in Europe. It's a good thing that his success has not gone to his head.

"So many Filipinos have tried to make it big abroad as performers, but they have failed. It's good to see that Billy has been making it on his own, while still remaining true to himself . . ."

R&B princess Kyla plans to keep on performing and learn from other performers, too.

Rico was always full of surprises

I MAY not be that close to **Rico Yan** but we had our moments. He was the kind of guy who lights up a room as soon as he walks in and leaves a trail of smiles behind when he leaves.

I first met Rico when I was invited by the now-defunct "Sharon Cuneta Show" to be their guest interviewer for the movie promo of Sharon's film. If I'm not mistaken, it was for "Madrasta."

I fired away questions in the panel to **Sharon Cuneta, Zsa Zsa Padilla, Christopher de Leon** and the "new face to watch" Rico Yan. The usual show biz manner of answering questions would start with an *"Ate"* or *"Tita"* so I was surprised when Rico called me "Miss Carvajal." I suddenly felt like a teacher instead of a TV host.

After the segment, I got to talk to Rico. Unlike most young stars I've met, he struck me as a guy who's got something more than his looks going for him. Instantly you could sense that he's well-bred. It's guys like him who dispell the notion that the age of chivalry is dead already. I could not help but ask myself why a "decent" guy like him would want to enter the crazy, messy world of show biz.

Other show biz wannabes of his age are in dire need of money so they helplessly succumb to all the exploitation just to get to the top. But Rico was definitely not on a money trip. Early on, he probably had a calling to warm people's hearts and help them in any way he can.

Laughter

"Rico" means "rich," but for his case it was not his riches that mattered but how he enriched people's lives with his laughter, friendship and love.

I got a glimpse of what an ideal son Rico was. Some years ago, I wrote about his rumored tiff with **Mark Anthony Fernandez** over **Claudine Barretto** which almost erupted into a fistfight.

Dolly Anne Carvajal

He called me up late at night to clear up the issue. Like a little lost boy, he gasped, "I'm sleeping over at a friend's house tonight because my mom got upset about the rumor. I don't want to see her mad so I'll let her cool down first. Please clarify the issue in your next column."

Apologetic

I was so apologetic. "I meant no harm. We're friends, you know. I just gave way to a report of a bystander who happened to be in the area when you bumped into Mark."

Like the true gentleman that he was, Rico assured me that he understood my point and promised me that he'd go home the next day and give his mom a big hug to take away all her worries. When we hung up, I realized that Rico's mom is one woman he truly reveres and that's not out of fear.

When I met his mom at a Born Again Christian service (another good friend **Louie Heredia** introduced us), I then concluded that being nice really runs in their family.

I also saw for myself what a protective boyfriend Rico was to Claudine. I had a meeting at Tequila Joe's when the waiter approached me and said that Rico wanted to talk to me in private. Rico was part owner of TJ's. So I excused myself from my business associates then Rico came over to join me. He requested me to write about what happened in the surprise birthday party he threw for Claudine in his other bar in Malate.

Private affair

He sighed, "It was a strictly private affair so I got shocked when a TV crew barged in to cover the party. They should have informed me first. There are times that Claudine and I allow the public to be part of memorable moments in our life, but we are also entitled to a little privacy once in a while.

"I wish they won't deprive us of that so I hope that the TV crew won't get me wrong and understand why I got a bit mad when they gate-crashed into the party."

When my friends and I asked for the bill, we were surprised to find out that Rico took care of it already. I immediately wrote about the incident and Rico sent me a text message to thank me for coming to his defense.

As I was watching the various tributes/reports about Rico after his death, I suddenly remembered his plea for even just a little privacy. I know he would not want his wake and interment to turn into one big circus, that's why it is understandable why his family has decided to bar the public from attending his burial today. *(Note: The Yan family announced that Rico's fans will be allowed to attend his funeral and the Mass at La Salle Greenhills Chapel at 9 a.m. today. -Ed.)*

Among all my fond memories of Rico, one I would never forget is when he surprised me for my birthday. Another dear friend **Marvin Agustin** was in connivance with him.

Since Marvin was not able to make it to my party, he called me up the next day to say that he would drop by for a nightcap. All along, I thought it was only Marvin coming so I got the surprise of my life when I saw Rico hiding behind the door when I opened it. He also missed my party so he tagged along with Marvin. We all had a good laugh and I could not stop thanking them for the sweet surprise.

Adviser

At that time, both Rico and Marvin were my "official advisers" about the guy I was seeing then who happened to be their friend. They were such good confidantes that I was able to exorcise the guy out of my system before I was going to self-destruct.

Looking back, it suddenly hit me now that Rico never really ran out of surprises. From our first meeting when he referred to me as "Miss Carvajal," then the "late night phone call," the "out-of-the-blue TJ talk and the post-birthday surprise visit, he always managed to make his presence felt when you least expected it. And up to his last moment on earth, he also managed to pull a surprise.

But even in his absence, you can still feel Rico's presence. I guess he wanted to go quietly so as not to cause any alarm. So very Rico! He always wanted to spread cheer and spare others from undue trouble.

So to his family, fans and friends like me, let's just take solace in the thought that he left earlier so that he could watch over all of us longer!

Thank you, Rico and keep those surprises from heaven coming!

For feedback, e-mail luvludg@hotmail.com, friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com, wateringhole2000@yahoo.com

Kyla dreams big

By Marinel R. Cruz

WHAT her father failed to accomplish during his prime, the daughter fulfilled in her teens.

When she turned 19, R&B princess Kyla became the realization of her father's dream of becoming a recording artist when she signed a contract with EMI-Virgin Records and released her "Way To Your Heart" album.

Today, nearly two years after her recording debut, Kyla's second single, "Hanggang Ngayon," topped the local charts.

Kyla is busy promoting her second offering. She recently launched her self-titled album with a highly charged performance at Ratsky in Tomas Morato.

"My dad is a frustrated recording artist," Kyla said. "He was the one pushing me to work hard so he can fulfill his dreams through me."

Kyla, who is Melanie Calumpang in real life, took her musical talent after her dad Eulysses, who was a bassist of a folk rock group in the '70s. His group failed to land a recording contract.

Having gone through a lot of frustrations as a musician, Kyla's father refused to give up whenever recording companies rejected his daughter in the past.

"He was not easily discouraged," Kyla says. "As soon as we were turned down by one recording outfit, he would distribute my demo tapes to other companies."

It was when Kyla interpreted composer Raymond Ryan's "One More Try" for the 2000 Metropop Young Singers' Competition that EMI-Virgin Records took notice of her.

Ryan is Virgin Records local label manager.

"He (Ryan) made Francis Guevarra listen to 'One More Try'," Kyla, now 21, says. "When he liked what he heard, we signed a contract and made the album."

The young chanteuse hopes to reach out to more listeners through her follow-up record, which offers more of her R&B signature sound and "some pop and ballad tunes."

"The second album is more commercial and contains more 'Hanggang Ngayon' type of songs, unlike my first recording which only had two *Tagalog* songs," Kyla says.

She composed two songs in the 14-track album. "I'm Into You" and "This Day" draw strength from Kyla's soul and R&B influences.

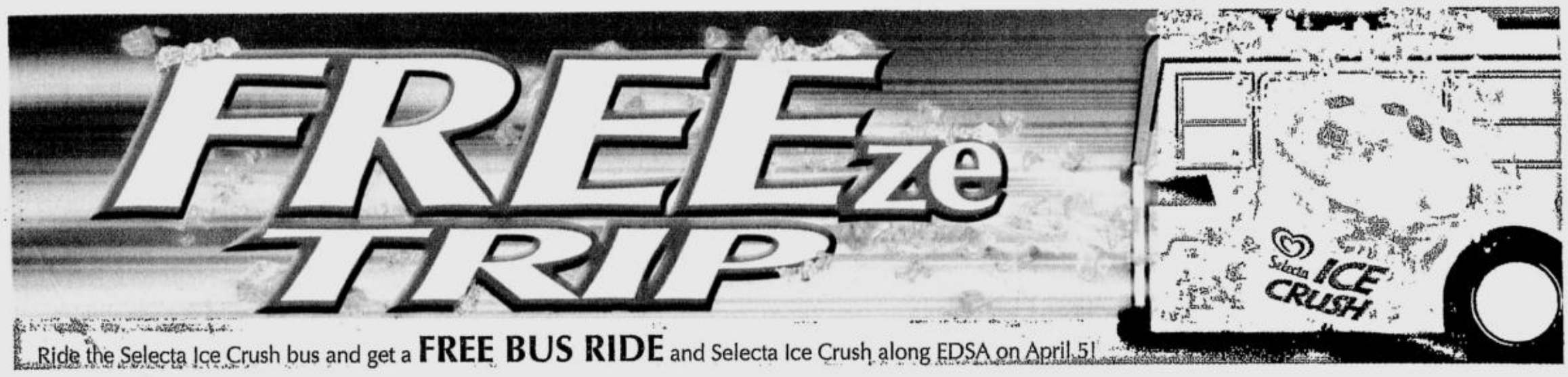
She grew up listening to the songs of Ella Fritzgerald, Aretha Franklin, Whitney Houston and Mariah Carey.

Like her idols, Kyla hopes to penetrate the international music scene. Her greatest dream is to perform at the Madison Square Garden or the Carnegie Hall in New York, with Queen of Soul Aretha Franklin.

"If you dream, dream big," says Kyla.

But for now, she just wants to concentrate on improving herself.

"I plan to keep on performing and learning from other performers as well."



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo ● Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

Fuel price hike seen this month

By Ronnel W. Domingo and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

CONSUMERS opposing the proposed power rate increase are in for another battle as consumer advocate Raul Concepcion yesterday said local oil prices were expected to go up by 90 centavos per liter this month.

Concepcion, who chairs the Consumer and Oil Price Watch, said the expected increase was due to an increase of $3.94 per barrel in world crude prices.

Average crude prices hit $22.96 per barrel last month from $19.02 in February.

The peso's 23-centavo gain from 51.29 to the dollar in February to 51.06 in March was not enough to temper oil prices.

"We suggest that the price changes be implemented in two equal increases of 45 centavos per liter on the 13th and 27th of April," Concepcion said in a press briefing.

Local oil firms earlier said prices would go up "soon" by about P1.34 to P1.50 per liter.

However, officials of Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Caltex Philippines Inc. agreed that the increase should take effect in installments.

But Concepcion said last month's 30-35 centavos per liter increase in fuel prices should be deducted from this month's increases.

Prices should not have increased in March because the oil companies had a buffer fund of 31 centavos per liter, he said.

Concepcion explained that last month's increase should be regarded as advances for increases this month.

On Tuesday, Petron corporate communications manager Virginia Ruivivar said the Palestine-Israel conflict has pushed crude prices to a six-month high.

About two-thirds of the world's petroleum reserves lie in the Middle East.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries had earlier said it was maintaining its position to keep crude prices at the $22-$28 per barrel range.

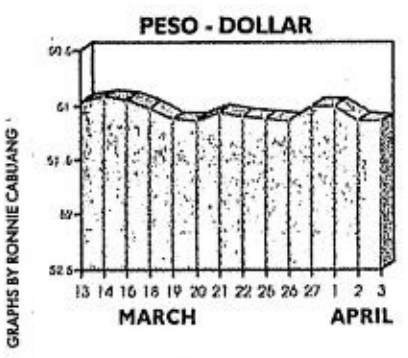
Ruivivar's counterpart in Pilipinas Shell, Roberto Kanapi, echoed her statements, noting that average Dubai crude prices reached $24.40 per barrel on March 28.

In a press statement, Caltex Philippines Inc. said pump prices in Thailand, Singapore, Hong Kong and New Zealand have gone up in March by almost three times higher than Caltex's latest adjustment.

"We will have to act according

FUEL/ B4

INDICATORS



GRAPHS BY RONNIE CABUANG

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱51.150 = $1

As of 5 p.m., April 3, 2002

¥132.86 = $1

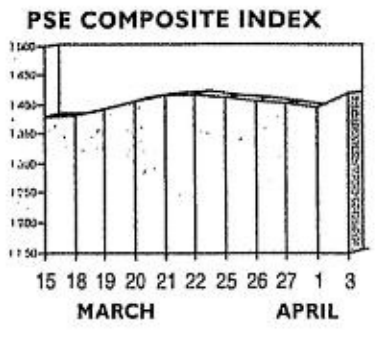
As of 5 p.m., April 3, 2002

GOLD: $304.30/304.80

per ounce Hong Kong, April 3, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Stocks end down



STOCKS ended slightly lower yesterday after the market encountered stiff resistance at the 1,430 point level in the main index, prompting investors to cash in some of their gains from the previous session.

(See stock market report on Page B4)

Index heavyweight and top phone firm PLDT led the losers, falling P5 to P550.

"After a one-day rise (on Tuesday), we suddenly encountered selling. We are still after all at the topside of the market," said Enrique Santa Ana, associate director for sales at DBS-Vickers Securities.

The main index slid 3.03 points or 0.21 percent, to end at 1,419.72 points, with trades confined in a tight range of about 11 points during the session.

What kept investors hopeful that the market's losses would be temporary was a slow rise in market volume. Turnover reached P610.2 million from about P500 million net of cross and block sales. Losers outnumbered gainers 35 to 28, with 41 issues unchanged. ***Reuters***

UNFAIR BARRIERS

US cites 52 nations, 3 trading blocs

WASHINGTON—Japan, the European Union and China came in for the most criticism by the Bush administration yesterday in a report spotlighting trade barriers against US exporters.

In all, the administration cited 52 individual countries, including the Philippines, and three trading blocs for criticism in this year's National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers.

From the broad list, the administration will choose a much smaller number of priority negotiating areas.

If consultations do not remove barriers the administration finds objectionable, the United States could bring trade cases before the World Trade Organization.

Those cases could ultimately lead to economic sanctions if the United States wins its claims and the targeted country fails to correct problems.

"By identifying barriers to trade, we can work with our trading partners, globally, regionally and bilaterally, to eliminate these barriers while further liberalizing our market at home," US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick said in a statement.

The report devoted 45 pages to Japan, followed by 35 pages for the 15-nation EU and 29 pages on China, the country which for the past two years has had the largest trade surplus with the United States.

On Japan, the report said, "Structural rigidity, excessive regulation and market access barriers continue to limit opportunities for US companies trading with and operating in Japan."

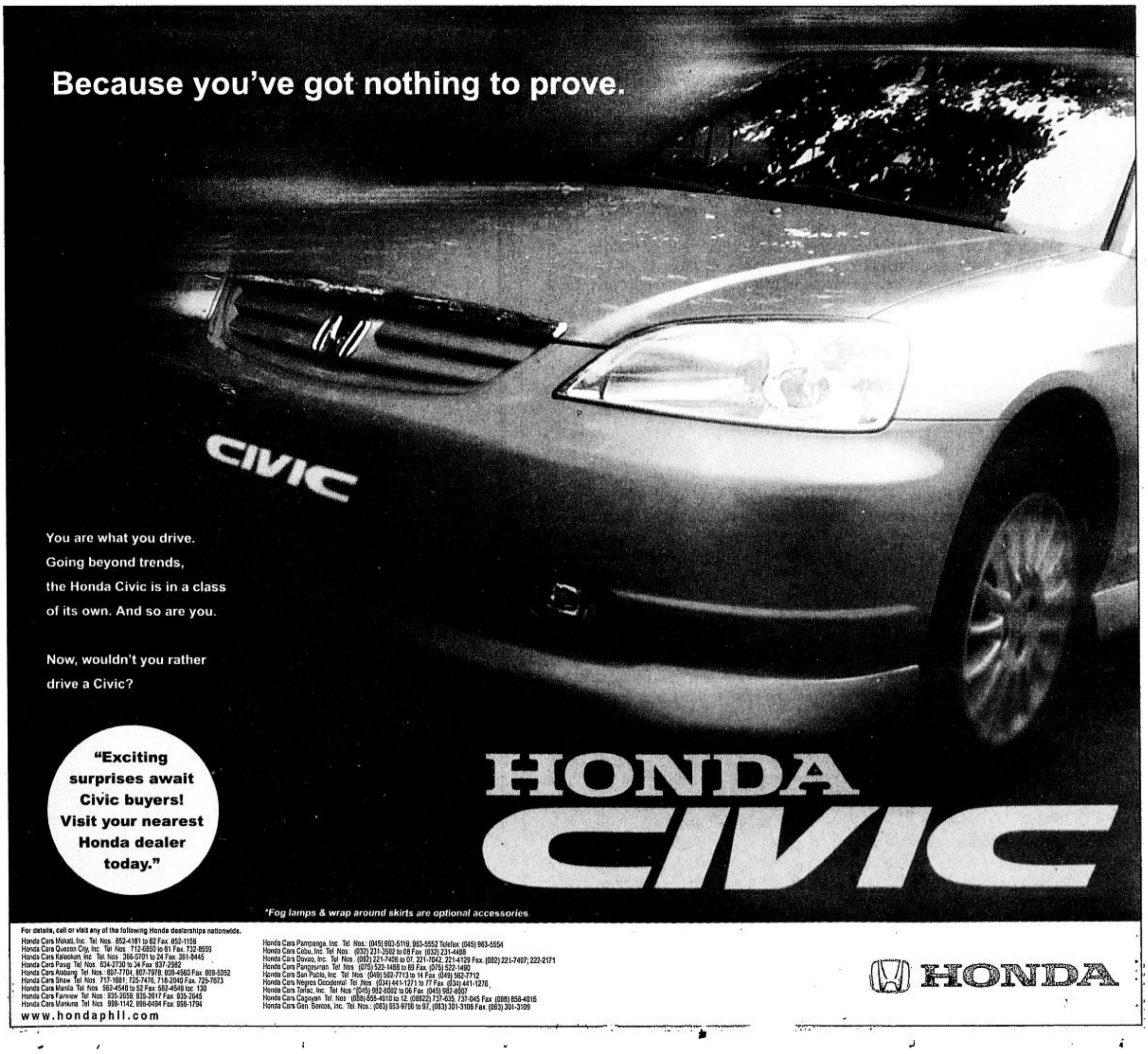
A senior administration trade official, who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity, said that one disturbing trend noted in the report was an increased use of sanitary standards not based on valid science to try to block exports of US agriculture products.

The official mentioned barriers Japan has to the import of certain US apples.

No decisions had been finalized on what cases the administration might bring before the WTO, the official said, but the administration is already pursuing a WTO case against Mexico over telephone company competition.

In addition to the EU, the other trading blocs mentioned in the report were the Arab League, for its boycott of Israel, and the Gulf Cooperation Council.

The individual countries cited in addition to the Philippines were Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Romania, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland, Taiwan, Tanzania, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Venezuela and Zimbabwe. ***AP***



Wrong and winding load

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

TRADE Secretary Mar Roxas did not say the Tariff Commission was either corrupt or stupid—or both. He only said the commission was wrong. He even said it very nicely.

All right, I really cannot tell how you will take it. Mar actually likes to use big words. To some people, all big words only mean either corrupt or stupid or both.

Mar used big words on a decision of the Tariff Commission. It involved the local cement industry. The commission said it was all right for the industry to die.

To refute the decision, Mar said the commission applied some "flawed framework" or "inconsistent inferences" or "erroneous methodology."

To take the load off you, let me translate the long and winding words into English in one word—"dead wrong." All right, in two words! Hey nobody's perfect, okay?

* * *

This cannot be denied. In its ruling, the commission said it was true that in 2000 and in 2001 imported cement came into the country like a flash flood.

From zero in 1999, cement importers were able to corner about 20 percent of the market, which, by the way, even shrank. It was like that recent movie—fast and furious.

With such a finding, the commission concluded that, clearly, the local cement industry needed no safeguard against the very same import surge. Bright!

It may as well have said that, in the rainy season, when our kids can easily catch cold or even pneumonia, they actually don't need umbrellas and raincoats.

Now tell the truth, where do we get such people, on whom we depend to decide for us, an entire country of 80 million people, such matters of life or death?

* * *

Mar did not say it, But I'm sure he wanted to call the decision a joke. It was as if the commission even tried, and how, to justify its way-off conclusion.

The local cement industry did not need "safeguards", according to the commission, for the sake of consumers. How nice! I can almost cry with gratitude!

It wanted to spare us, consumers, from an increase in cement prices. The increase, it said, would result from the "safeguards" against imports.

But the facts showed otherwise. Last December, for example, as a temporary measure, Mar imposed a "safeguard" tariff of P20 per bag on imported cement.

Surprise! Prices went down by 16 percent. But prices should go up, following the commission's thinking, and not down. Do you think it knew what it was doing?

* * *

FOR the facts also showed that, even with the so-called trade liberalization in 1993, when tariff was cut substantially for imported cement, prices did not go down.

Mar had an explanation. The cement market is not a perfect market. Such buzzwords as "free market" and "open trade," therefore, do not apply.

This, in other words, is the real world. This is no longer, say, an economics classroom or, for that matter, the fantasy world of the Tariff Commission.

Prices of cement can't go down because importers merely followed the local cement price. Importers, not consumers, benefited. The importers made a killing.

So let me see if I got this right. You mean to tell me, in its ruling, the commission would rather look stupid or corrupt or both.

It is willing to sacrifice, if only to protect us, consumers, by allowing those cement importers to get rich. And they get rich only at our expense. Is that it?

* * *

ANOTHER of our beloved government offices, the Energy Regulatory Commission, or the ERC, says it has a big problem. ERC Chair Fe Barin says it cannot please everybody.

Barin is talking about the petition of Meralco, which is asking the ERC for huge increases in its charges. Meaning, higher electricity bills for all of us.

If the ERC grants Meralco the increase, according to Barin, the ERC is sure to get it from the public. If it does not, she indicates, the ERC is sure to get it from Meralco.

Of course, she is correct. It's a damned-if-you-do, damned-if-you-don't-thing. It's just that, well, since when did the ERC ever owe Meralco anything?

So what if Meralco throws a tantrum. I thought the ERC exists to serve us, the public, and not Meralco. Or for that matter, the Lopezes!

* * *

TODAY, we still pride ourselves for having the second highest electricity rates in the whole of Asia, next only to those in Japan. Meralco does not settle for second.

It wants to bring our electricity rates way up the sky because it is sick and tired of our landing always in second place. We only get the silver medal.

At least Meralco wants us to be the first in something. It aims for us to be the No. 1 in the Olympics of electricity rates, Meralco is going for the gold.

But then again, I thought that, with the new power reform law, electricity rates are supposed to go down. Maybe Meralco sees it another way—as a Lopez company.

In the business community, you see, Lopez companies are famous for businesses that are heavily dependent on the good graces of the government.

But it is also known for a lot of companies that are bleeding money worse than hemophiliacs. In business, they think that for the group, Meralco is just a lactating bovine.

* * *

REMEMBER that the Meralco franchise covers a big area, from Pampanga to Batangas, from China Sea to the Pacific Ocean, the whole length and breath of the land between.

Roughly, the area only accounts for about one-half of the entire Philippine economy. So what will happen to us if the ERC chooses to avoid the wrath of Meralco?

It's simple. When the world economy takes off, we become the odd man out in this region again. If Meralco gets its way, in other words, we're f...ked!

I don't know if such things are only a matter of choice for the ERC. Maybe there's a little bit of economic policy here. It is, like it or not, a big decision.

Yet, this cute administration leaves everything up to the ERC, which, according to its chair, thinks that Meralco and the entire country are one and the same thing. Wow!

Gov't issues rules on GMO imports

THE GOVERNMENT has approved a set of guidelines to regulate imports of genetically modified plants and plant products by July 1 next year.

Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor signed an administrative order governing the release of genetically modified organisms for field testing, propagation and for direct use as food or feeds.

The issuance of the guidelines was approved by President Macapagal-Arroyo and the Cabinet on Tuesday.

Under the administrative order, the government will prepare by June 30 next year a list of approved commodities that will be allowed entry into the country.

After that date, any company importing a GMO not included in the list of the Bureau of Plant Industry will be required to secure a permit.

During the transition period, the bureau will ask an independent scientific panel to review the risks of importing GMO products to health and the environment.

"No person shall be allowed to import or release into the environment any regulated article without a satisfactory risk assessment conducted in accordance with these rules and regulations," Montemayor said in a statement.

Traders have expressed worries that more stringent rules on the import of GMOs would lead to higher prices of commodities for animal feed.

The Philippines imports annually about one million tons of soybean meal, about 300,000 tons of soybeans and at least 200,000 tons of corn. ***Christine A. Gaylican***

Internet café chain operator sees profitability next year

NETOPIA Computer Technologies Inc., an Internet café chain majority-owned by ePLDT, said yesterday it should start making money by next year.

In a news briefing, Netopia president Raymond Ricafort said the company was currently focused on "building its business rather than profitability."

The company is moving to extend the role of the Internet café to "more than just gaming."

"Our revenues are not that substantial yet. We're not profitable at this point because our main focus is building our business and not profitability," Ricafort explained.

Founded almost six years ago, Netopia started as an eight-workstation Internet café primarily focused on gaming.

Ricafort said the company's goals now included "raising the bar" among Internet cafés as well as extending their role as venues for education.

Netopia has launched "Digital Paradise," a partnership with some of the country's and the world's information technology and telecommunications giants, including Intel Corp., Microsoft Corp., Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and ePLDT.

The P2-million initiative aims to help narrow the so-called digital divide by providing affordable Internet access to those who cannot afford to have their own installed at home.

Ricafort said there were only around 2 million personal computers in the Philippines: one million belonged to the government and private businesses; 500,000 are situated at around 6,000 Internet cafes all over the country; and the remaining 500,000 comprises mostly of low-grade systems. ***Abigail L. Ho***

WARNING TO THE PUBLIC

SO THE PUBLIC MAY BE WARNED:

Notice is hereby given to the public that **Kubota Agro-Industrial Machinery Philippines, Inc, (KAMPI) is the sole and exclusive distributor** of all agro-industrial machinery, including horizontal diesel engines, bearing the Kubota trademark in the Philippines pursuant to KAMPI's Supply Agreement and Distributorship Agreement with Kubota Corporation, Japan. Thus, only KAMPI or its dealers are authorized to sell and distribute Kubota diesel engines in the Philippines.

The right to perform an exclusive distributorship agreement and to reap the resulting profits are proprietary rights which KAMPI may protect.

The public is hereby warned that **G.A. Manufacturing Co., Inc. ("GAMCI")** with principal office and business address at Gasanco Building, Lot 3270-A Merville Annex Road, Pasay City, Metro Manila, and Hoa Binh Corporation, with address at 190 Kinh Duong Vuong, An Lac, Binh Chanh, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, and/or Rm. 102 Gammon House, 110 Rada St., Legaspi Village, Makati, are not authorized dealers of Kubota diesel engines. Hoa Binh has been exporting and/or distributing to the Philippines horizontal engines bearing the brand **"KUVICO"** which are confusingly similar with the genuine Kubota RK Series engines. GAMCI has been importing, selling, marketing, and/or otherwise dealing in these KUVICO engines and has been passing the same off as genuine Kubota diesel engines.

Accordingly, KAMPI recently filed a case against G.A. Manufacturing Co., Inc., before the Regional Trial Court of Quezon City, Branch 90 entitled "KAMPI" vs. G.A. Manufacturing Co., Inc." and was docketed Q-02-4632, for unfair competition under Section 168.3 of Republic Act 8293, otherwise known as the "Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines," and wrongful interference with a contract by unauthorized third persons.

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), acting on the complaint of KAMPI, secured Search Warrant No. 02-2694, issued by Branch 1 of the Regional Trial Court of Manila. The NBI, pursuant to said warrant, seized numerous Kuvico diesel engines of various models from the main offices and warehouse of GAMCI. These seized engines are now in the official custody of the authorities.

Other dealers, distributors, and/or retailers of these Kuvico engines have been legally prohibited by the courts from selling, marketing or distributing these engines. In fact, the Regional Trial Court of Davao City, Branch 10, in Civil Case No. 28-798-2001, entitled, "KAMPI vs. Kidapawan Mercantile, Inc.," issued a writ of preliminary injunction against Kidapawan Mercantile, Inc. ("Kidapawan"), another supposed dealer of Kuvico diesel engines. The dispositive portion of the writ of injunction states:

> "NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the aforesaid prior Orders and for the reasons cited therein, defendant Kidapawan Mercantile, Inc. is hereby enjoined from importing, selling, distributing, and passing off Kuvico engines, which are confusingly similar to the Kubota engines of plaintiff, as genuine Kubota engines, pending the final determination of the issues in this case."

WARNING is hereby given to those engaged in the unauthorized manufacture, advertising, distribution or sale or offer to sell, whether retail or wholesale of KUVICO diesel engines, which are confusingly similar to Kubota engines, and other imitation engines, to immediately cease and desist from pursuing such fraudulent and illegal acts or face criminal prosecution, which shall include raids and seizures.

THEREFORE, any person or entity that shall import, distribute and sell the above-mentioned Kuvico engines, as well as any other engines confusingly similar to the Kubota RK Series engines, shall be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. ***This is in addition to the civil and administrative remedies available to KAMPI.***

CASTILLO & POBLADOR
Counsel for
KUBOTA AGRO-INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY PHILIPPINES, INC.
5th Floor, Montepino Building, 138 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City

GLOBE TELECOM

NOTICE OF REGULAR ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the regular annual stockholders' meeting of **GLOBE TELECOM, INC.** will be held at the Grand Ballroom, Hotel-Intercontinental Manila, Ayala Center, Makati City on **THURSDAY, 11 APRIL 2002** at **9:00 A.M.** with the following

AGENDA

1. Determination of Quorum
2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting
3. Annual Report of Officers
4. New Business
   - 4.1 Ratification of all Acts and Resolutions of the Board of Directors and of the Executive Committee adopted in the ordinary course of business during the preceding year.
   - 4.2 Ratification of the Resolution of the Board of Directors adopted on 29 January 2002 approving the declaration of a 25% Stock Dividend.
5. Election of Directors
6. Election of Auditors and Fixing their Remuneration
7. Consideration of such other business as may properly come before the meeting.
8. Adjournment

Stockholders of record as of **28 February 2002** shall be the stockholders entitled to vote at this meeting. As per By-Laws, the Stock and Transfer Books of the Corporation will be closed from **22 March – 11 April 2002,** inclusive.

Mandaluyong City, 21 February 2002.

FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RENATO O. MARZAN
Corporate Secretary

RFM, Exportbank resume work on P2.8-B Bonifacio project

By Doris C. Dumlao

PHILIPPINE Townships Inc., the real estate subsidiary of RFM Corp., and the Export and Industry Bank have signed a deal to resume development of the P2.8-billion One Mckinley Place in the Fort Bonifacio Global City and complete the plush residential tower project within a year.

One Mackinley Place Inc. (OMPI), a 50-50 percent joint venture between Philtown and Urbancorp Realty Developers Inc. (URDI), had to suspend the development since April 2000 when URDI's major shareholders, Urban Bank and Urbancorp Investment, went bankrupt and were placed under the government's receivership.

In a statement yesterday, Philtown president Rally Martinez, also executive vice president of OMPI, announced that the newly signed memorandum of agreement included a comprehensive operating and financial restructuring plan for the project, which was now 70 percent complete.

He noted that the MOA was a result of negotiations between Philtown and URDI which started in September last year when ExportBank absorbed the Urban Bank group, paving the way for the latter's rehabilitation.

"It is unfortunate that circumstances relating to the closure of Urban Bank prevented us from delivering the project earlier. However, with this MOA signing, we can now meet our commitments to our numerous buyers," Martinez said.

"Although the real estate market continues to be soft, we believe that once we start delivering completed residential units during the first quarter of the year 2003, the project will be well positioned for the expected upturn then," he said.

The Philtown official said the MOA would require both URDI and Philtown to infuse additional equity and raise counterpart financing for the remaining 30 percent uncompleted portion.

But with most of the funding requirements for the project already in place, Martinez said OMPI would not need to rely on aggressive selling to fund further construction, thereby guaranteeing completion.

Martinez added that at the time that many vertical projects had been aborted due to the slump in the property market, "OMPI would like to distinguish itself as having delivered on its promise to its many loyal clients, despite the many obstacles it had faced."

The MOA signing last April 1 was also attended by ExportBank and URDI chair Sergio Ortiz Luis Jr. and Jose Concepcion III, RFM president and Philtown chair.

With the sale of RFM's stake in several businesses—including crown jewel Cosmos Bottling Corp., Consumer Banking Corp., PSI Technologies and Blue Bay tuna—the conglomerate had reverted to a net cash position. This was even after it recently declared P2 billion in cash dividends and bought back its own shares from a US investor for P1.05 billion.

MARKETING INSTITUTE OF THE PHILIPPINES
The Education and Training Arm
of the
Philippine Marketing Association, Inc.
Invites you to a seminar on

CUSTOMER RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT (CRM) SEMINAR

The business and marketing world is buzzing with talk of Customer Relationship Management (CRM). But talk is one thing and action another. Ask yourself. Do your customers believe that they have a special, personalized relationship with you? Do you know everything possible about your customers? Do you use that information to deliver customized products and services? Do customers receive a uniform experience when they interact with you, regardless of the touchpoint? Do you anticipate what your customers are going to do and use that knowledge to serve them better? Do you target high-point customers for superior customer service and product offers? This exciting strategic seminar is the first comprehensive overview of CRM offered in the Philippines. Attendees will learn about the theory and practice of CRM in both its human and technical dimensions, and will leave with the knowledge they need to make informed business decisions about this vitally important new way of doing business.

The following speakers are: Ricardo "Bok" Dujua, President, Solutions 77, Inc., Timothy Lavin, Chief Operating Officer, Ambergris Solutions, Inc., Christine Elsea-Mandojana, Director, SGV & Company, Ernest Custodio, Director for Business Systems, INDIO CRM Consulting, Andrew Guilarte, Country Services Manager, IBM, Global Services ASEAN/SA, Francisco Castillo, Ph.D., Managing Consulting for IT, (Asia-Pacific), Soluziona, Inc. and Clarence Henderson, President, Henderson Consulting International, Director of Data Management, Amphil Tech, Inc. Adjunct Faculty, Asian Institute of Management.

Schedule : April 16, 17 & 19, 2002 (Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday) 1:00 - 6:00 p.m.
AIM Conference Center, Makati City (Security Bank Caseroom)

Course Fee :
Early Bird Rate (Is up to April 08, 2002 ONLY)
PMA Member P4,700.00
Non-PMA Member P5,500.00
Regular Rate (April 09, 2002 onwards)
PMA Member P5,500.00
Non-PMA Member P6,000.00

For inquiries, please call the PMA Secretariat c/o Ms. Lira C. Ligero at tels: 892-0978; 892-3144; 813-0466, 893-7127; 893-6459 or Fax: 892-3261
E-mail: lirapma@edsamail.com.ph or pma@philonline.com.ph

Housing agencies eye mortgage sale

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE HOME Development Mutual Fund or Pag-Ibig plans to raise money for housing development by monetizing part of its P90 billion in mortgages through the establishment of an asset management company or outright sale.

Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council chair Michael Defensor, who is also chair of Pag-Ibig, disclosed that the Pag-Ibig board has recently approved the search for a financial adviser "to look into mortgages and accounts and to advise us on what to do with our mortgages" and that the Home Guaranty Corp. might soon follow.

He said Pag-Ibig was inclined to enter into an asset management arrangement with a potential investor.

Defensor explained this to reporters yesterday following the appointment of Ernst & Young, represented by Punongbayan & Araullo, as financial adviser of the National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. for the latter's P40-billion mortgage portfolio.

Under the letter of engagement, P&A Ernst & Young will conduct for NHMFC a due-diligence review of the housing agency's portfolio, make a valuation, provide advice on financial structuring and disposition and implement an international or domestic auction process, among others.

Only 32 percent of NHMFC's P40-billion portfolio is performing, defined by the housing agency as loans whose principal or interest has been paid in the last six months.

"This is a milestone event in the government's efforts to source funds for housing from the capital market through sale of mortgage holdings of government agencies. It will also speed up the development of a secondary market for mortgages," Defensor said yesterday.

Cement firms unfazed by lawsuit threat

THE CEMENT industry remains unfazed by the threat of an anti-cartel lawsuit, saying this was not likely to hold up in court of law, said former Albay Congressman Edcel C. Lagman, spokesperson of the Philippine Cement Manufacturers Corp.

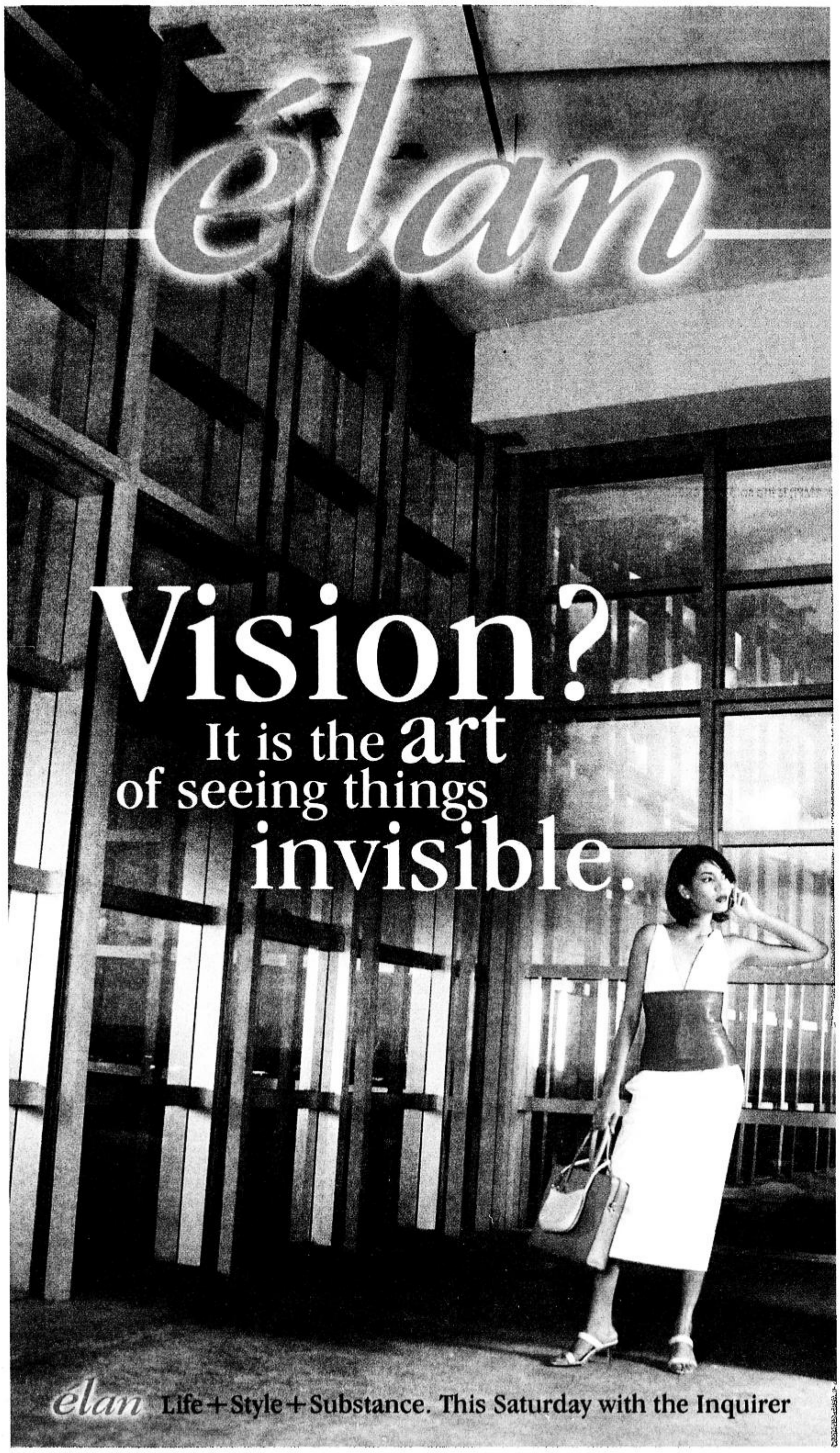
"As (Consumers Union of the Philippines and the Confederation of Homeowners Associations for Reforms in Governance and Environment) threaten to file a cartel complaint against the local cement industry, they forget that the culpable element of cartelization is the conspiracy to increase prices and not the consensus to lower prices," he said.

He explained that the instability of cement prices prior to the provisional tariff was in fact due to imports and not to any alleged collusion on the part of cement producers.

"The unrestricted influx of imported cement constrained manufacturers to offset the 21-percent market share lost to imports by adjusting their prices. The 21-percent market share captured by imported cement in turn translates into P6.4 billion lost sales revenues for the local industry."

Also, unlike importers, Lagman said the industry has to deal with structural problems like high power, production and transport costs, and was obliged to service its interest payments for loans incurred to modernize production, Lagman said.

"No less than the Tariff Commission found that the huge investments made by local cement companies needed a gestation period of three to five years, and that it was the sudden surge of imports that prevented the companies from achieving the planned efficiencies that the modernized and expanded plants could have provided," he added.



CREATIVE DIRECTION: ANTONIO SALAC SANTOS • PHOTO: CHITO VECINA • LAYOUT: MARLONE RUBIO • MODEL: CHRISCEL AGUDO, CAL CARRIE'S • HAIR & MAKEUP: MICHAEL CRUZ • FASHION: LOEWE • . LOCATION: LANDCO PDCP CORPORATE CENTER DAVAO CITY

OFFICERS NAMED, COMMITEES FORMED

Bourse starts reorganization

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange has finally started its reorganization that was delayed by a squabble between the camps of brokers Robert Coyiuto and Vivian Yuchengco, who was voted PSE chair in the bourse's elections on March 9.

In a circular to brokers dated April 2, the PSE named Rodolfo Cruz of HK Securities as treasurer and Reynaldo Reyes, former head of the AFP Retirement Service and Benefits System, as assistant treasurer. The two replaced Edwin Luy of Triton Securities and Eddie Gobing of Lucky Securities who both declined their appointments as PSE treasurer and assistant treasurer, respectively, in protest to the election of Yuchengco as PSE chair. Both Luy and Gobing belong to the camp of Coyiuto.

The listing committee, traditionally the biggest revenue earner of the PSE, was assigned to William Ang (Astra Securities) and Peter Favila (non-broker director) as co-chairs. Appointed members of the committee were: Francis Chua (BA Securities); Emmanuel Bautista (Deutsche Regis Partners Inc.); Robrina Go (UBS Warburg Securities); Joseph Madrid (Philippine Equities Partners); and, Remy Tigulo (SB Equities).

The legislative committee, in charge to push for the amendment of the Securities Regulation Code, is now co-chaired by former Customs Commissioner Tomas Apacible (non-broker director) and Marita Limlingan (Regina Capital Development). The committee members are Nestor Agila (DA Securities); Conrado Bate (JP Morgan); Francis Chua (BA Securities); and Senen Magtoto (BPI Securities).

The PSE also created a new by-laws committee to draft proposed amendments to the bourse's charter, which were deemed needed to help the exchange cope with the challenges of demutualization and to avoid election squabbles in the future.

The PSE charter is currently silent on the process of selecting the eight non-broker directors who will control the majority of the PSE board.

Appointed chair of the by-laws committee was former Ateneo College of Law dean Joaquin Bernas, S.J. Its three members are Rodolfo Cruz, Edgardo Guevara (Intra-Invest Securities) and Francisco Villaroman (corporate secretary and nominee of Securities Specialist).

Named chair of the management audit and finance committee was Alicia Rita Arroyo (RCBC Securities) with the following as members: Rodolfo Cruz, Cayetano Paderanga (non-broker director), Peter Unlay (Tower Securities) and Erlinda Valenton.

PSE president Ernest Leung was named chair of the settlement committee, with the following as members: William Ang, Wilfred Co (Coherco Securities), Manuel Manalac Jr. (First Integrated Capital Securities); Myron Timothy Papa (Papa Securities) and Reynaldo Reyes (Public Securities).

The sixth committee filled up was the floor trading and arbitration committee. For the Ayala trading floor, the following were named committee members: Irving Ackerman (I. Ackerman & Co.), Nestor Aguila and Alejandro Yu (R.S. Lim & Co). Named committee members for the Tektite trading floor were: Gobing, Elphege Wong (Bernad Securities) and Johnny Yap (Solar Securities).

JP Morgan exec named DBP chair

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday announced the appointment of investment banker Simon Paterno as president and chief executive of state-owned Development Bank of the Philippines, replacing Remedios Macalincag who will retire late this month.

Paterno, 43,has worked with JP Morgan for 18 years. He is at present JP Morgan's managing director for Philippine investment banking business. He will assume his DBP post in end-April.

In a briefing yesterday, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said he also expected former United Coconut Planters Bank president Lorenzo Tan to assume the post of president and chief executive officer of Philippine National Bank once its rehabilitation was ironed out.

On Paterno's appointment as DBP chair, Camacho said his appointment "furthers the market orientation of the government."

"I expect the DBP, under its new leadership, to play a greater role in the capital markets development and in supporting priority industries as identified by government," Camacho said.

For his part, Paterno said he accepted the DBP post because he wanted to serve the country.

"We all have to do active duty for the country and I am doing mine now. My work ahead can touch directly thousands of Filipinos and it is with this in mind that I commit to work as hard for the government as I did for the private sector," Paterno said. *Elena R. Torrijos*

BCDA PLANS AIRPORT HUB

Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) Chair Florencio Padernal (third from left) and BCDA president/CEO Rufo Colayco (second from left) recently made a courtesy call on Air Force Chief Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor. BCDA is preparing a master development plan that will transform part of Villamor Air Base into a hub of airport-related commercial establishments.

Cerberus asked to consider absorbing National Steel loans

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE GOVERNMENT has urged Cerberus Capital Ltd. to consider acquiring large corporate loan accounts such as that of debt-laden National Steel Corp.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said he made the suggestion in a recent meeting with Cerberus, which has pledged to invest up to $1 billion for the purchase of sub- or non-performing assets, including the government's housing loan portfolio.

NSC, which was shut down two years ago due to its P19-billion debt burden, has been a big headache to the government.

The government, through National Development Corp., still has a 12-percent stake in the steel firm.

After efforts to rehabilitate NSC failed, the steel firm was placed under the supervision of a liquidator. Recently, creditor banks agreed to a proposed liquidation plan that they hoped would be agreeable to NSC's majority owner, Malaysian debt restructuring agency Danaharta Nasional Berhad.

The plan calls for banks to convert all but P2 billion of their loans to NSC into equity (80 percent) in a special purpose vehicle that will hold the steel firm's operating assets.

With this plan, Danaharta's over 80-percent stake in the steel firm will be diluted to 20 percent.

Large non-performing corporate loan accounts like the NSC have been a major drag to the financial system and the economy, as a whole.

Burdened with high-non performing loans, the banking sector is constrained to lend.

Several banks await the passage of the Special Purpose Asset Vehicle bill and the Securitization bill in Congress before entering into agreements for the disposal of non-performing loans and other bad assets through asset management companies.

Flying V, partner putting up oil depot in Mindanao

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—One of the new active players in the country's oil industry has decided to operate in Mindanao, particularly in Sarangani province.

Flying V, which runs a chain of pump stations in Metro Manila and nearby provinces in Luzon, recently entered into a memorandum of undertaking with the Trans-Sarangani Resources Corp. for a joint oil depot project.

The project will rise on a 2.3-hectare lot in an industrial zone in a coastal village of Cawas in Alabel, Sarangani.

Under the agreement, Flying V will infuse P80 million in fresh capital into the project. The amount will be used to finance the construction of a dockyard and the first ever oil depot in the province.

Trans-Sarangani, a newly formed corporation headed by retired Army Gen. Jose Torrelavega, will provide the land as its contribution to the joint venture.

Torrelavega used to be a deputy division chief of the Army's 6th Infantry Division based in Parang, Maguindanao.

Sarangani Gov. Miguel Escobar told reporters here that the project would push through without any hitch as all the required documents, including an environmental compliance certificate, had already been issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources regional office.

Escobar lauded the entry of Flying V, saying "It only shows the growing confidence of investors in Sarangani."

He said several local businessmen from General Santos were pooling their resources to put up a multimillion-peso investment in the province.

The group, headed by fishing tycoon Marfenio Tan, is planning to put up a P200-million hotel and resort project in Sarangani. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Fuel price hike seen this month

From page B1

to (these) conditions," said Marian Catedral, Caltex corporate affairs manager.

On March 20, Caltex led other local oil companies in raising prices by 35 centavos per liter for gasoline and 30 centavos for diesel.

Concepcion said no increases in transport fares and prices of basic commodities were expected this month.

"These sectors did not implement price rollbacks when oil prices were falling last year," he said. "There is no reason for them to change now."

Concepcion also warned that the inflation rate might start moving up next month if world crude oil prices continued to soar due to the escalating violence in the Middle East.

In a press conference, Concepcion said an escalation of oil prices in the world market could lead to higher prices of food and other commodities.

He said the Department of Trade and Industry should tighten its price monitoring and warn unscrupulous traders from taking advantage of the situation.

Inflation tumbled to a 23-month low of 3.4 percent in February, the eighth straight month that inflation has fallen. This has brought the average inflation rate from January to February this year to 3.6 percent, or way off the 5-6 percent target.

This is bad news for the business sector, which has yet to benefit from the decline in both inflation and interest rates since last year. With inflation expected to go up, interest rates should likewise start moving higher.

With the worsening Israel-Palestine conflict, Concepcion said most businessmen have also taken a more cautious outlook on the Philippine economy this year.

He said that while the economy might have bottomed out, the Middle East crisis should make the road to economic recovery much longer than what we had anticipated.

DISCLOSURES

SM Development Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 24, 4 p.m. at the ballroom of **Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati City.** Only stockholders of record as of March 25 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

REYNOLDS Philippines Corp. said its draft restructuring agreement was being finalized and that this would likely be signed within the next few weeks.

* * *

STOCKHOLDERS have ratified **Ebecom Holdings Inc.'s** change in the par value of its share price from P0.01 to P1 per share. But the change will not yet be reflected in the Philippine Stock Exchange's computer system pending disclosure on the procedures for updating of stock certificates.

* * *

UNION Cement Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 17, 4:30 p.m. at the Rizal C. Makati Shangri-La Hotel. Only stockholders of record as of March 18 are entitled to vote at the meeting.

* * *

COSMOS Bottling Corp. denied having any information that could explain the 39.5-percent decrease in its share price that fell from P5.70 to P3.45 per share. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Wednesday, April 03, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	67.5		67.5	67	67
344,600					
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank	38	40	38	40	1,103,100
First E-Bank Corp.	2.28	2.3	2.28	2.28	70,000
Matropolitan Bank and Trust	43.50	44	42.5	42.5	
Phil. National Bank	65	65	65	65	100
Union Bank of the Phil.	21.28	21.5	21.25	21.5	8,900
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.42	1.8	1.42	1.42	1,018,000
First Metro Invest Corp.	220	220	220	220	50
Manulife Financial Corp.	1335	1340	1335	1340	1,150
PCI Leasing & Financial Inc.	1.02	1.04	1.02	1.02	468,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1065	1090	1065	1090	21,790
COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	36.5	38.5	36.5	38	98,400
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	.7	.7	.7	.7	690,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	805	810	800	800	6,490
Island Info and Tech Inc.	.0625	.0625	.05.05	13,100,000	
Manila Bulletin Pub Corp.	3	3	3	3	20,000
Piltel	.51	.52	.49	.49	8,920,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel Co.	.24	.24	.24	.24	80,000
PLDT	560	565	550	550	193,220
Ivantage Corp.	.51	.51	.51	.51	250,000
Philweb.com. Inc.	.021	.021	.02	.021	19,100,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. "A"	31	31.5	31	31.5	164,400
Manila Electric Co. "B"	47.5	48.5	47	47	1,463,700
Petron Corp.	1.76	1.8	1.76	1.76	5,254,000
Galcon Power Corp.	1.88	1.94	1.86	1.85	8,388,000
Trans-Asia Oil & Energy	.89	.89	.89	.89	90,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminal Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	30,000
Int'l Container Term'l SV	2.6	2.65	2.6	2.65	3,156,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	.82	.82	.82	.82	20,000
CONSTRUCTION AND OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	.3	.3	.3	.3	200,000
Republic Glass HLDG. Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.4	24,000
FOOD BEVERAGES AND TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.18	2.28	2.18	2.18	175,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13	13.25	13	13	57,900
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	23	23.25	23	23.25	98,800
RFM Corp.	1.54	1.58	1.54	1.56	470,000
Swift Foods Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	90,000
San Miguel Corp. "A"	47.5	48	47.5	48	157,300
San Miguel Corp. "B"	64	64.5	63.5	63.5	224,700
Phil Tob Blue Cur & Redry	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
10.250					
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	8.90	9.5	9.5	9.9	1,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg "A"	.5000	.5	.5	.5	270,000
Ayala Corp.	6.30	6.4	6.3	6.3	10,358,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.00	2	2	2	400,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	.6900	.69	.66	.67	530,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	3.05	3.05	3	3	63,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10.50	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	.8000	.82	.79	.81	12,460,000
Crown Equities Inc.	.2900	.29	.29	.29	610,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	.2700	.3	.27	.27	1,040.00
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	.1000	.1	.09	.0925	10,000.00
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	60,000
First Phil. Holdings Corp.	31.00	31	31	31	409,100
Global Equities Inc.	.1350	.135	.13	.13	900,000
Ionics Inc.	7.80	7.9	7.8	7.9	20,000
J.G Summit Holdings Inc.	1.92	1.92	1.88	1.88	313,000
Medco Holdings	1.700	.17	.17	.17	10,000
Megaworld Corp.	.8700	.87	.85	.85	530,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	.3200	.32	.3	.31	1,860,000
Music Corp.	.3300	.33	.33	.33	1,860,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	.9000	.9	.9	.9	50,000
Solid Group Inc.	.3800	.38	.37	.37	400,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	.1400	.14	.14	.14	600,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Macondray Plastics Inc.	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	3,000
Picop Resources Inc.	.0900	.09	.09	.09	100,000
BPI Technologies Inc.	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	21,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	.6100	.61	.6	.61	9,260,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	.6100	.61	.61	.61	10,600
Premiere Int. Prod. Inc.	.2100	.21	.21	.21	20,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRABTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	36.50	39	36.5	37.5	600,500
DMCI Holdings Inc. Pref	770.0	770	770	770	1,790
Equitable-PCIBank –War	1.70	1.7	1.7	1.7	126,000
Globe Telecom Hldg (PDR)	795.0	795	790	790	5,500
Omico Corporation-Warrant	.0004	.0004	.0004	.0004	90,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000	
PLDT (10% Pref) Series U	10.50	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.50	10.5	10.25	10.25	1,900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.50	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series AA	10.50	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,300
Philweb.com Inc.-warrants	.0055	.0055	.0055	.0055	2,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.90	6.9	6.9	6.9	3,557,000
C&P Homes Inc.	.2800	.28	.28	.28	2,910,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	.4900	.49	.48	.48	2,390,000
Empire East Land Inc.	.3100	.31	.31	.31	2,040,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.40	2.44	2.36	2.36	6,454,000
SM Development Corp.	.9500	.95	.95	.95	30,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.70	6.8	6.7	6.7	7,835,000
MINING					
Abra Mining and Industrial	.0038	.0038	.0038	.0038	20,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min. & Dev't	1.80	2	1.8	2	88,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	.0440	.045	.043	.045	84,600,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. A	.2300	.24	.23	.23	2,350,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	.2350	.26	.235	.245	3,900,000
Omico Corp.	.0046	.0046	.0044	.0044	61,000,000
Polar Mines and Dev't Corp.	.0170	.018	.017	.018	7,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	.2700	.27	.27	.27	60,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	.3000	.31	.3	.3	910,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	.0200	.02	.02	.02	1,500,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. "A"	.0044	.0044	.0044	.0044	56,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. "B"	.0044	.0044	.0044	.0044	29,000,000
Pacifica	.0140	.015	.014	.015	7,700,000
Sinophil Corp.	.0700	.07.0675	.0675	800,000	
South China Resources Inc.	.2200	.22	.22	.22	170,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	3,684,390	121,789,295.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	207,489,000	387,620,300.00
PRO	25,216,000	95,132,600.00
Mining	179,908,000	6,222,500.00
OIL	95,170,000	606,950.00
GRAND TOTALS:	511,467,390	611,371,645.00

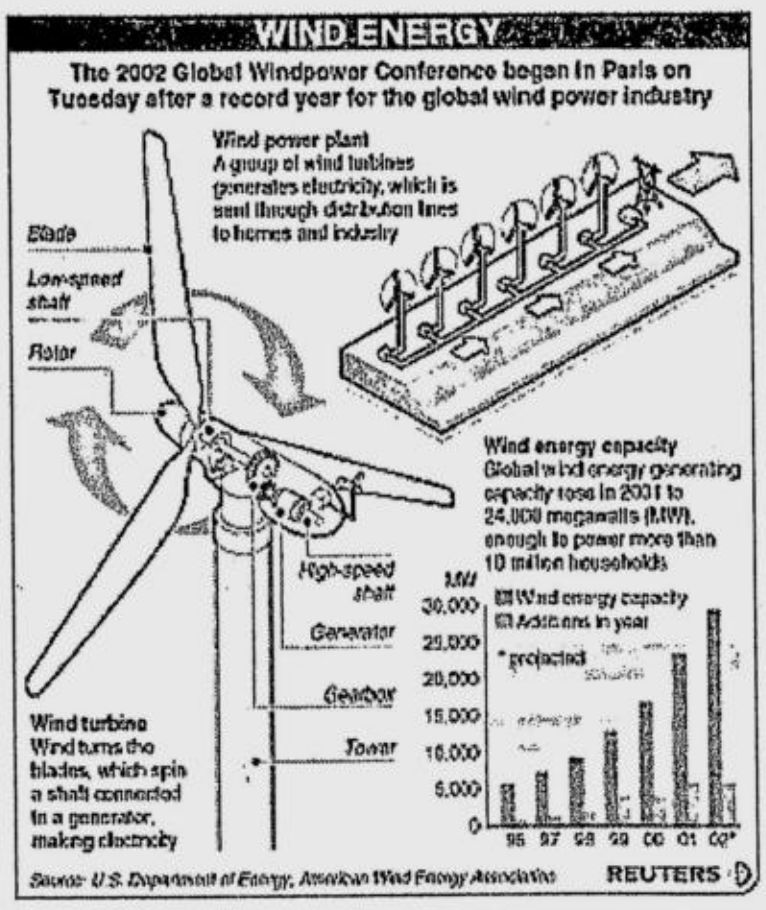
AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	977.40 DOWN 6.62
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,935.37 DOWN0.73
PRO	620.01 UP 3.11
Mining	1,451.44 UP 34.56
OIL	1.54 UP 0.04
All Shares Index	760.03 UP 9.06
Composite	1,419.72 DOWN 3.03

NO. OF ADVANCES: 28; NO. OF DECLINES: 35; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 41; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 104; NO. OF TRADES: 2,951

CURRENCIES

April 03, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.136751	1.000000	51.0850
Japan	Yen	0.008527	0.007501	0.3832
United Kingdom	Pound	1.632602	1.436200	73.3683
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.145749	0.128215	6.5499
Switzerland	Franc	0.683677	0.601431	30.7241
Canada	Dollar	0.713636	0.627786	32.0704
Singapore	Dollar	0.615658	0.541594	27.6673
Australia	Dollar	0.607564	0.534474	27.3036
Bahrain	Dinar	3.015415	2.652661	135.5112
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.303126	0.266660	13.6223
Brunei	Dollar	0.613797	0.539957	27.5837
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000117	0.000103	0.0053
Thailand	Baht	0.025988	0.022862	1.1679
UAE	Dirham	0.309496	0.272264	13.9086
Korea	Won	0.000862	0.000758	0.0387
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.879700	44.9395
Brazil	Real	0.488426	0.435350	22.2399
Denmark	Kroner	0.133835	0.118308	6.0438
India	Rupee	0.023303	0.020513	1.0479
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.298839	0.263158	13.4434
Mexico	New Peso	0.126148	0.110840	5.6623
New Zealand	Dollar	0.502273	0.441794	22.5690
Norway	Kroner	0.129876	0.114457	5.8470
Pakistan	Rupee	0.018958	0.016694	0.8528
South Africa	Rand	0.100317	0.089047	4.5490
Sweden	Kroner	0.110973	0.09739	4.9752
Syria	Pound	0.022050	0.019417	0.9919
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.032538	0.028645	1.4633
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001234	0.001078	0.0551



SE Asia's efforts to integrate economies lack key factor: unity

BANGKOK—Southeast Asian leaders agree their wounded economies can fare better standing together than facing the global slowdown alone, but there's a problem—they are deeply divided on how best to promote unity.

Some countries favor free trade. Others abhor the idea. The region's financial systems run the gamut from strongholds of market liberalism like Singapore to the rigid Myanmar economy, governed by a mix of mysticism and communist-style planning.

Given their differences, analysts say, efforts to build a regional economic bloc will be glacially slow.

The Association of South East Asian Nations holds two meetings this week to try to forge closer cooperation.

Trade ministers meet in Bangkok on Thursday and Friday along with US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick to discuss ways of axing import barriers. In Yangon, economic ministers meet their counterparts from China, Japan and South Korea on Friday and Saturday for talks on building a regional currency safety net.

But analysts say regional bickering will keep the brakes on trade liberalization, while the currency safety net is little more than a symbolic gesture with little practical use.

Instead of moving toward greater unity, the region is fracturing with individual countries pursuing bilateral deals and putting Asia-wide agreements on the back burner.

Asean has grand plans for free trade—its Asean Free Trade Area agreement envisages slashing import tariffs across the region in the next few years.

Asean has also agreed with China to work toward creating a free trade area within 10 years, a move seen as crucial by many economists if Southeast Asia is going to compete with China to attract investment aimed at tapping the vast Chinese market.

The reality, however, falls well short of the rhetoric.

Afta has been undermined by Malaysia's insistence on keeping tariffs on its auto industry, and by Kuala Lumpur's suspicion of wider free trade deals. An attempt to strike an Asean free trade deal with Australia and New Zealand fell through in 2000 largely due to opposition from Malaysia. *Reuters*

ITOGON-SUYOC MINES, INC.
No. 6 Industria St.,
Bagumbayan, Quezon City

NOTICE OF SPECIAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Special Stockholders' Meeting of Itogon-Suyoc Mines, Inc. will be held on Wednesday, April 3, at 4:00 o'clock in the afternoon at the Board Room, Valle Verde Country Club, Captain Henry P. Vargas St., Bo. Ugong, Pasig City. The agenda for the meeting shall be as follows:

1. Call to Order;
2. Proof of Notice and Certification of Quorum;
3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Stockholders' Meeting;
4. Amendment of Articles of Incorporation
   a. Amendment of primary purpose; relegation of mining to a secondary purpose, and authority to engage in such secondary purpose of mining;
   b. Change in name;
   c. Increase in capital stock;
   d. Increase in number of directors;
5. Election of Additional Directors;
6. Other Matters;
7. Adjournment.

Only stockholders of record as of Friday, **March 1, 2002** are entitled to notice of and to vote at said meeting. The stock and transfer book of the Company will be closed from March **1, 2002** to **April 10, 2002** both dates inclusive.

Quezon City, March 12, 2002.

Roberto V. San Jose
Corporate Secretary

Social, environmental values to drive tomorrow's companies, says UN

UNITED NATIONS—Tomorrow's companies will have to pay more attention to social and environmental values in an economic shift that will create major new business opportunities as well as pitfalls, according to a new report released at the United Nations on Wednesday.

Increasingly, "future growth will be in the competitive space in which winners are those that create value without environmental costs," said the report by the UN Environment Program, the World Resources Institute and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development.

The groups said their report on "Tomorrow's Markets: Global Trends and their Implications for Business," aimed to help businesses respond to emerging trends and reflected growing interest in marketplace solutions to such pressing world problems as poverty and lack of health care and education.

Seeking to identify areas of future opportunity, the report said consumer markets and labor forces would increasingly become concentrated in the fast-growing emerging economies.

So businesses should look to developing nations for profitable opportunities, it said.

As some 78 percent of the world's population is now poor, long-term growth will depend to a significant extent on the business community's ability to bring millions of people into the global economy who are now stuck on the sidelines, the report said.

Just 11 percent of the world's population is currently rich while another 11 percent are middle-income, a far smaller target audience, it said.

The world population is poised to expand 50 percent by 2050, with the vast majority of the growth occurring in developing countries. So that is where the most growth in consumption will occur as well, according to the report.

That trend has important implications for many areas of the economy. For the food industry, market development in countries with high levels of malnutrition will be crucial to expanding economic growth and opportunity, it said.

Similarly, health care and education systems will have to be improved in the developing world to assure worker productivity and a skilled workforce, creating additional opportunities for growth.

In the energy field, the search for greater efficiency and lower production of greenhouse gases will drive new markets in alternative energy production, energy conservation services and more efficient technology, the report said.

In addition, as natural resources become scarcer, "competitive advantage will go to businesses that can reduce environmental impacts (and offer) innovative services that protect and renew the environment and that reduce the costs and liabilities associated with ecosystem damage."

"Innovation to avoid waste, use renewable resources and develop industrial models in which wastes are captured and treated as an input into other processes can reduce costs and increase revenues," the report advised. *Reuters*

Power of China's yuan grows, but still shackled by controls

SHANGHAI—Whenever the Japanese yen wavers, Asian central bankers turn a nervous eye to China's tightly guarded yuan currency, hoping the People's Bank will stand firm and protect regional exchange rate stability.

Despite China's swelling economic clout and its currency's growing importance and usage in Asia, however, Beijing has to lift rigid capital controls before the yuan can dream of carrying the international weight of its neighbor's yen, analysts said.

The yuan is carving a deeper presence in Asia, especially in Southeast Asia and Indochina as booming trade and tourism boost non-official usage of the currency, also called the renminbi.

It is interchangeable in trade fairs and markets near the Chinese border in northern Vietnam, Laos and Myanmar, sometimes even more acceptable than the US dollar. Tourist shops in Hong Kong, Thailand and Malaysia also take the Chinese currency.

"As China's trade and investment flows become perhaps the dominant flow within Asia itself, it will be natural for the renminbi to take on a more regional nature," said Cliff Tan, director for Asia-Pacific economics at Salomon Smith Barney.

"But you really can't do that until the capital account is open," said Tan.

For a country of China's importance—it is the world's seventh largest economy—the yuan should be higher on international investors' radar screens, analysts said.

But strict forex controls curb its desirability.

Regional central banks will not hold the yuan as a reserve currency, nor do they issue debt in yuan because China keeps it tightly pegged at near 8.28 to the US dollar. The yuan is also not freely convertible on the capital account.

There are few official channels to exchange the yuan outside China and foreigners that want to invest or trade with Chinese firms deal mainly in hard currency.

As long as China is reluctant to pry open the yuan's locks, fearing creaky domestic banks will not be able to withstand the destabilizing capital flows that weak financial systems invite, economists do not expect the yuan's status to rocket.

Nevertheless, analysts said the yuan's influence in Asia is often obscured by its peg to the dollar.

China has a massive hold over regional trade and investment flows. Its economy is growing at about 7 percent a year despite global weakness and its exports compete directly with Southeast Asia's.

The country is also opening attractive new sectors for investment after joining the World Trade Organization and sucking foreign capital away from the rest of the region. *Reuters*

Qantas to launch budget carrier

SYDNEY—Qantas Airways confirmed Wednesday it would press ahead with the launch of a discount carrier this year in an aggressive bid to capture market share in Asia.

Australian Airlines would be launched on Oct. 27 with plans to serve six Asian destinations by December, chief executive Geoff Dixon said.

Three of the six start-up routes will link the northern Australian tourist destination of Cairns with the Japanese cities of Osaka, Fukuoka and Nagoya.

Singapore, Hong Kong and Taipei will also be served by the wholly owned Qantas subsidiary.

With bookings set to commence in May, the launch of the new carrier follows a tumultuous period in global aviation history following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

Since then, Australia's former No. 2 carrier, Ansett Airlines, has folded, costing about 17,000 employees their jobs. Virgin Blue, the brainchild of British entrepreneur Richard Branson, has exploited Ansett's demise in capturing around 13 percent of domestic passenger traffic. *AFP*

SHOWCASE 2002

Event Details
Date : April 12, 2002
Venue : The Grand Ballroom, Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati
Time : Registration opens at 8:00 AM, Seminars end at 5:30 PM

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late FELICISIMO DAYANAN and EPIFANIA DAYANAN has been extrajudicially settled among heirs as per Doc.97 Page 21 Book No. IV Series of 2002 before Notary Public J.T. PELICANO of Pasig City
PDI-March 21, 28 April 4, 2002

Please take notice that the estate of the late **VIRGINIA MAY T. ALILING** who died on Sept 26, 2001 was extrajudicially settled by her heirs as per Doc 1793, Page 61, Book X, Series of 2002 of Notary Public Jose P.O. Aliling IV of Makati City.
(PDI-March 21, 28 & April 4, 2002)

The estate of Filomeno Bajar, Sr. had been extrajudicially settled among his heirs per Doc No. 63, Page No 14 Book No. V, Series of 2002 of Notary Public Jimmy Lacebal of Mandaluyong City dated March 25, 2002. (PDI-April 4, 11 & 18, 2002)

PUBLIC NOTICES

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO BLESSED MOTHER
(NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL)
O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity, Oh star of the sea help me and show me, herein you are my Mother Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity there are none that can withstand Your power. Oh show me herein You are Mother.
Oh Mary, conceived without sin. Pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3X).
Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (3X).
Thank you for Your mercy toward me and being mine.
Thank you Mama Mary for answering my prayers. Amen. (This prayer must be said for three days and after three days, your request will be granted and the prayer must be published)

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory.
Amen

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movimondo

MOVIMONDO - Italy is implementing a project funded by the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) entitled: "Relief and Humanitarian Operations in Support of the Returnees, Displaced by the Insurgency in the Province of Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur, Mindanao, the Philippines:"

PROJECT N°ECHO/PHL/210/2001/01001
PROCUREMENT NOTICE MP 1002-2002

INVITATION TO BID FOR

- Agricultural Inputs
- Agricultural Implements

TENDER DOCUMENTS

The tender dossier is available for collection at following mail address:

MOVIMONDO, P.O. Box # 13117
GSIS Post Office,
Carmen 9000 Cagayan de Oro City

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS

April 19th, 2002 at 12:00 am. Any tender received after this deadline will not be considered.

TENDER OPENING SESSION

On April 26th, 2002 at 12:00 am at Movimondo Field Office, Poblacion, Bacolod, Lanao del Norte-9205 Philippines Cell: 0916-4399283 / 0917-7416322
E mail :moviphil@yahoo.it
From March 21, 2002.

For purpose of securing a copy of the bidding requirements, please write us at the address: MOVIMONDO Field Office, Poblacion, Bacolod, Lanao del Norte- 9205 Philippines; Email: moviphil@yahoo.it

(Sgd.) ENRICO CAMPIGLIA
Project Coordinator

(PDI - March 21, 28, Apr. 4 & 11, 2002)

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines is inviting interested proponents/suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid to the following:

Subscription to a Business Disaster Recovery Center (BDRC) for DBP's Contingency Processing

Interested proponents may secure their application for eligibility and accreditation documents from **April 10, 11,** and **12, 2002** at the 6/F, Procurement Services Division of the Property & Security Management (PSM), Development Bank of the Philippines, Gil Puyat Avenue cor. Makati Avenue, Makati City, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Hundred Pesos (P 200.00).

The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all bids including offer to pre-qualify, to waive any defects or informalities found therein and to accept the bid that is considered most advantageous to the DBP. The decision of DBP is final and binding.

Property & Security Management

(PDI - Apr. 4, 5 & 6, 2002)

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Aries Espinosa, Editor

PSBank's low-interest guarantee on home loan

PSBank, a subsidiary of Metrobank, recently introduced a unique home loan product called PSB Home Rate Protect. An addition to the bank's line-up of home loan products, PSB Home Rate Protect gives clients a fixed 12-percent interest rate for the first year of their loan and a guaranteed maximum interest of 15 percent for the next four years. Loanable amounts start from P500,000 up to a maximum of P25 million and may be used for a house and lot, lot, townhouse, or condominium.

PSB Home Rate Protect helps borrowers project their cash flow for the first five years of the loan, giving them peace of mind of not being burdened with unpredictable rates. IT is committed to protect borrowers from fluctuating interest rates. That means if at any time starting on the 2nd year of the loan, the prevailing market rate goes beyond 15 percent, PSBank guarantees a maximum rate of only 15 percent for those who borrowed under Home Rate Protect. If market rates go lower, borrowers get the added advantage of enjoying lower interest rates, too. An optional five-year fixing of interest rate at 13.5 percent is also available.

PSB Home Rate Protect eliminates the uncertainty of high interest rates, which have become unpredictable, given the present volatility in the market, and provides one of the lowest rates for home loans. This is ideal for those who have existing housing loans and those who are still deliberating on buying a home.

As a special offering, clients with existing loans who wish to transfer their loan to PSBank's Home Rate Protect will enjoy a waiver of fees on application and processing. Promo period is from January 25 to March 31.

Currently, PSBank has a variety of home loan programs. There is the regular PSB Home Loan; there is also the PSB Home Free where principal payments are returned after loan maturity.

Interested parties may visit any PSBank branch or call 843-2038, 843-1672, 885-8217.

AFCI SUPPORTS HYBRID RICE PROGRAM

A memorandum of agreement in support of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Hybrid Rice Program was signed recently between Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) and AFC Fertilizer and Chemicals Inc (AFCI). Shown are (from left) Takashi Ikeda, director-vice president of AFCI, Antonio M. Kosca, Jr., AFCI president; Secretary of the Office of the Million Jobs Luis P. Lorenzo, Jr., and Dr. Leocadio S. Sebastian, director of PhilRice. Also shown is Raymund P. Ilustre, SVP of AFCI.

Minnesota Fats' Service Center opens

Sports Resources Inc., the exclusive distributor of Minnesota Fats Cue Sticks, the high-end billiards cue sticks named after the world's best billiards player Rudolph Wanderone (also known as "The Hustler"), recently opened its after-sales service center which will repair and fix Minnesota Fats cue sticks for a minimal fee.

Minnesota Fats cue sticks are made of A-1 type of original Canadian maple wood and are durable, with perfectly aligned joints made of stainless steel brass. Minnesota Fats cue sticks sport a variety of graphic designs in smooth and gradually tapered shafts.

But even the best cue sticks can be less than perfect after a lot of use or misuse. For this purpose, SRI has put up the after-sales service center to ensure a perfect billiards game for billiards aficionados.

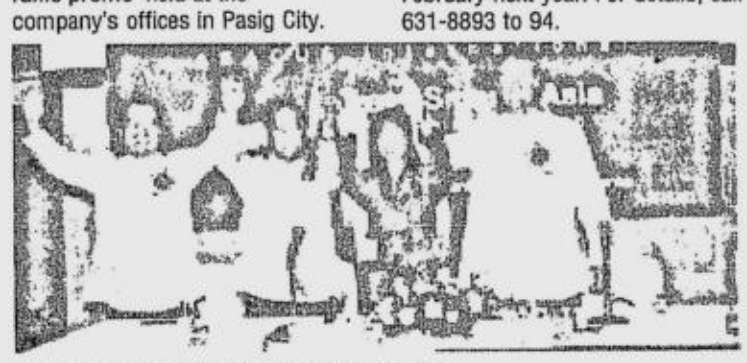
For March, the SRI Service Center will repair and fix Minnesota Fats cue sticks (e.g. broken ferrules, missing tips, etc.) free of charge. This special promo is SRI's way of thanking its valued patrons of Minnesota Fats Cue Sticks for the continued support and trust they have shown this top-of-the-line-brand.

Minnesota Fats Cue Sticks are available at al Toby's and Chris Sports outlets, Marvin's Sports City, CSI-Dagupan, Rowell's Billiards, Unique Sports World, Phil-Indian, Tiongsan, Harrison Sports Basic, Southwood Mindanao, Ever Industries, Celebrity Sports and Altamera.

MSV EXTENDS PROMO

DTI director Arnaldo del Rosario (second from left) is seen with Heidi Yumul, Dottie Pineda and Ellen Lambinicio of Bookware Publishing Corp. during the recent monthly draw of 'Nokia 3310 raffle promo' held at the company's offices in Pasig City.

For the readers of My Special Valentine (MSV) pocketbooks, the lucky winner is Aracell de los Reyes of Meycauayan, Bulacan. The company also announces that the promo has been extended to February next year. For details, call 631-8893 to 94.



ABACUS PROMOTES TRAVEL

Abacus International, Asia-Pacific's largest global distribution and computerized reservations system, through its ongoing TravelSmart-Asia promo, promotes travel and tourism to visit the Philippines and other countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Clients who book their airline tickets through travel agents using the Abacus Computerized Reservations System (CRS) from now until April 14 have the chance to win airline tickets and hotel accommodations through raffle draws. Major key players at the recent launch of TravelSmart-Asia are (from left) Demetrio C. Silverio, president and general manager of Abacus Distribution Systems Phils. Inc.; Avelino L. Zapanta, president and COO of Philippine Airlines; Marilu Q. Ngo, president of the Philippine Iata Agents Travel Association Inc., and Donald A.R. Birch, president and CEO of Abacus International Pte. Ltd.

Seminars on fashion design set for April, May

Canadian-born graphic and fashion design consultant Claudine Cloutier is scheduled to conduct a two-month series of courses on fashion and graphic design starting April 2, aimed at introducing new aspects of design to interested students and professionals.

According to Cloutier, the seminar series, to be held at 2/F Trafalgar Plaza, H.V. de la Costa, Salcedo Village, Makati can open opportunities for individuals who want to start a new hobby or gain better understanding of the design field.

Younger students may wish to pursue design as a professional career that could lead them to post-secondary studies here or abroad or a full-time business as an entrepreneur, she said.

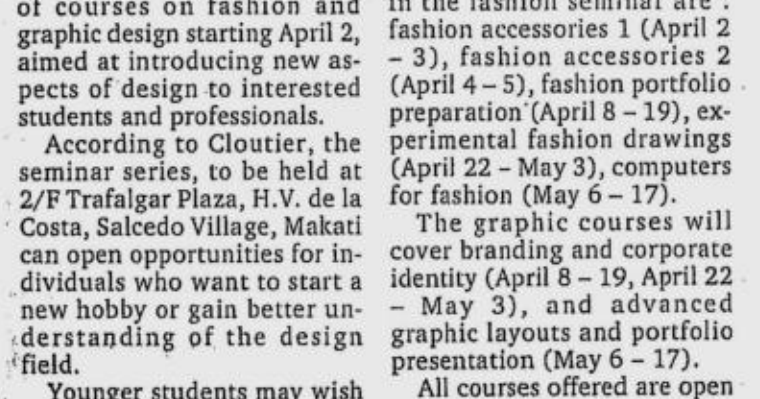
Cloutier has a rich international experience in the fields of fashion and graphic design, which she acquired from overseas stints in various countries such as France, Malaysia, and now, the Philippines.

Among the topics covered in the fashion seminar are : fashion accessories 1 (April 2 – 3), fashion accessories 2 (April 4 – 5), fashion portfolio preparation (April 8 – 19), experimental fashion drawings (April 22 – May 3), computers for fashion (May 6 – 17).

The graphic courses will cover branding and corporate identity (April 8 – 19, April 22 – May 3), and advanced graphic layouts and portfolio presentation (May 6 – 17).

All courses offered are open to participants of all ages. Certificates of attendance will be given upon completion of courses.

For more information, please contact International Education Specials (Inter-Ed), at 819-1001, 819-1002; fax 810-2825 or email at claudine@inter-ed.com.



WWW.WEDDINGEXPOPHIL.COM

The website of the Philippines' most comprehensive wedding fair was launched in simple ceremonies recently. Shown is Vicky Veloso-Barrera, editor-in-chief of WedExpo's commemorative glossy magazine browsing the site together with John Rana of WeddingsAtWork, event consultant, and Sharon Parreno-Fabian of Themes & Motifs, event organizer. Looking on are Bennette Rana of W@W and Dodjie R. Fabian, senior partner of Wedding Expo Philippines. WedExpo is on April 6 and 7 at the NBC Tent, The Fort, Makati City.

NPC SWITCHES CAMOTES ISLAND ON

National Power Corp. OIC-president and CEO Roland S. Quilala delivers a keynote speech during the blessing and switch-on ceremony of NPC's Camotes Diesel Power Plant Expansion project in Camotes Island in Cebu recently. The expansion project will provide additional capacity to meet the growing energy needs of the three towns in the island. Joining Quilala during the event were Rep. Hoseph Ace Durano of the 5th District of Cebu and Poro Mayor Edgar Rama.

Product FILES

WARREN'S NEW LINE

WARREN, a strong and reliable brand trusted for generations, is catching up on trend when it comes to men's underwear as it offers yuppies and teeners high-quality and more stylish garments comparable to imported brands at affordable prices. Warren's latest line includes more stylish briefs and bikinis, especially in color, with wide brands as dictated by the latest trend wherein underwear bands are shown peeking over the jeans; boxers, the future underwear trend; and muscle shirts.

Choose among the new Warren Bare Essentials collections including the following: Comfort Ribs Series; Retro Classic; Athletic Fit Sport; High Fashion Bikini/Brief; Eclipse Series; Basic Brief; Shirts; and Basic Shirts.

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 920-6401 • (632) 920-6446
E-mail: sssemail@info.com.ph • Web site http://www.sss.gov.ph
Visit the SSS website for Bid Invitations

INVITATION TO BID

SALE OF VARIOUS SCRAP PAPERS, CARGO FORWARDING SERVICES & ELECTRONIC MESSAGING AND WORKGROUP SOLUTIONS

The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM is inviting bidders for the following:

1) *Two-Year Contract for the Sale of Various Scrap Papers
*This is a re-publication.
2) Two-Year Contract for the Hiring of Cargo Forwarding Services to handle the pick-up and delivery of SSS cargoes and other materials to and from various points of destinations and origins nationwide.
3) Supply, installation & customization of a groupware software application package capable of officiently managing workflow processes and providing for a secure and reliable electronic messaging system for the Main Office in Quezon City.

List of pre-qualification requirements must be obtained from the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat, 6th Floor, SSS Main Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City with telephone numbers 922-2991 and 920-6401 local 5490/5491. For item no. 3, only pre-qualified bidders will be provided with the Request for Proposals (RFP) and will be invited to attend the pre-bidding conference. To cover the cost of the RFP, pre-qualified bidders for item no. 3 will be required to pay a non-refundable fee of P10,000.00. Below is the deadline for the submission of pre-qualification documents, at the same address.

Item No.	Deadline
Item 1	April 25, 2002
Item 2	April 29, 2002
Item 3	April 30, 2002

The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any formality or technicality, and to award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the System. The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of their respective bids, nor does the System guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) ERNESTO G. GASIS
Assistant Vice President and Acting Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI - April 4, 2002)

EMBASSY of the ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT
MANILA

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Manila announces that it is willing to buy two (2) lots of land that are appropriate for constructing the new Embassy and Residence premises in Manila.

The two lots should be in Makati City and the Residence's lot area should be approximately 2000m2 (located either in Dasmariñas Village, North or South Forbes Park) while the Embassy's lot area should be approximately 1500m2 (only in Dasmariñas Village).

For more details please contact the Embassy at the following address:

#2229 Paraiso cor. Banyan Sts.,
Dasmariñas Village, Makati
Tel. Nos. 843-9220/843-9232

All offers should be submitted within (20) twenty days after the date of issuing this advertisement.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION
North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
P.O. Box 70, U.P. Diliman, Quezon City

March 12, 2002

General Administrative Order No. 1-A
Series of 2001-2002

SUBJECT: Amendment to General Administrative Order No. 1, Series of 2001-2002 re: Increase in Fees and Charges

There is a need to amend certain provision in the SRA General Administrative Order No. 1 series of 2001 - 2002 pursuant to Executive Order No. 197 dated January 13, 2000 and by virtue of the powers vested in the Sugar Regulatory Administration. It is hereby ordered that:

Section 1. Section 1 (4) of SRA General Administrative Order No. 1, Series of 2001-2002, dated January 17, 2002, is hereby amended, to read as follows:

"a) Monitoring Fee

a)	Raw to Relined/Washed	P 2.00 per LKG
b)	Direct Consumption Sugar such as White Sugar, Mill Factory White sugar Blanco Directo, Plantation White sugar, improved Raw sugar, Silver Raw, Premium Raw and others."	P 2.00 per LKG

Section 2. Other provisions of SRA General Administrative Order No. 1, Series of 2001-2002, shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 3. This Order shall take effect Fifteen (15) days after publication.

By the Authority of the Sugar Board:
(Sgd.) JAMES C. LEDESMA
Administrator

Approved:
(Sgd.) LEONARDO Q. MONTEMAYOR
Secretary, Department of Agriculture

(PDI - Apr. 4, 2002)

INQUIRER RiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Heartfelt

Q. What's the origin of the expression 'cross my heart?'

A. When you cross your heart (and hope to die) while making a sign of the cross with the index finger of the right hand, you are supposedly telling the truth. Long before Christianity, the cross was a sacred symbol. Since it was assumed that the heart was the seat of all wisdom, it was believed that your heart would know if you were lying.

Ooops! The device commonly called 'lie detector' does not, and cannot, actually identify lies. The correct term for it is a polygraph, and it simply records various bodily changes that may provide the basis for a reliable diagnosis of truth or detection. The polygraph test or technique, as it is called, measures blood pressure, pulse, the respiration -- physiological phenomena associated with lying. It also includes a supplemental unit that records the galvanic skin response (GSR). The most valuable indicators are respiration and blood pressure and not, as is popularly believed, the sweating palms measured by GSR. polygraphs do not simply indicate whether a specific statement is a lie. A pattern of responses compared to various controlled questions is evaluated by the examiner to determine the truthfulness of the answers. When administered by a competent examiner, the polygraph usually provides very accurate results, but they are not admissible in court as evidence unless both sides agree in advance to its use. This is partly because it can be fooled. People who are trully unaware that they are lying, when in fact they are, cannot be caught by such a device.

Past Forward. This day in 1915: Jack Johnson, the first black world heavyweight boxing champion, loses his title when he was knocked out by Jess Willard, dubbed "The Great White Hope," in the 26th-round of a 45-round bout in Havana, Cuba. Johnson was well ahead on points when he caved in from the heat and physical exhaustion.

WORD WATCH

Bura (nee-groh) : from the Latin *niger*, "black."

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Dominador Arias Cariñgal

of Ibaan, Batangas

Born July 24, 1935,
died in the Grace of Our Lord
on April 2, 2002

His loving wife **Gracia Zuño**; his children **Omar** & **Dr. Emma Reyes**, **Attys. Virna** & **Jacob Divino**, **Don**, **Leah**, **James**, **Danilo** and **Isel**; grandson **Quilo**; brothers, sisters, relatives and friends request everyone to rejoice with them on his return to our Creator.

His remains lie at the St. Jerome Church, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa.

The body will be brought to Ibaan, Batangas on Saturday morning and will be brought back to the St. Jerome Church on Sunday, April 7, 2002, for interment at 3:00 PM.

ROBERT C. MOTOOMULL

Passed away on March 1, 2002
in West Hollywood, L.A. California
at the age of 39.

His bereaved wife **Luzviminda**; daughter **Dianne**; mother **Jean**; brother **Ramchand Jr.**; sisters **Christine** and **Sandra**; relatives and friends request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains (ashes) will be at the Resurrection Chapel, Our Lady of Beautiful Love Church, Merville Park, Parañaque, in the afternoon of Thursday, April 4, 2002.

Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 6, 2002. Interment will follow at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

MARIA CRUZ BAUTISTA
(Ka Meding)
of Parañaque City

who peacefully joined her Creator
on March 26, 2002

Wish to express their heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who comforted and condoled them, offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and cards of sympathy, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and who in countless other ways helped them in their time of bereavement.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

PAZ (PACITA) PEÑA PURUGGANAN

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on March 11, 2002

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciation to all those who offered Mass and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy and who in countless ways, condoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
Matthew 10:39

"O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup; it is you yourself who are my prize"

ROY A. JURADO, M.D., F.A.C.S.

of Bogo, Cebu
(U.P. College of Medicine, Class 1960)
(Diplomate, American Board of Surgery and American Board of Thoracic Surgery)
Joined his Creator on March 27, 2002 at the age of 64
in Apple Valley, California, U.S.A.

His wife, **Dr. Carmen C. Santos-Jurado** of Pateros, Metro Manila
(U.P. College of Medicine, Class '61);
son, **Robert Andrew** (U.P. College of Medicine, Class 2002)

His parents, **Rizalino A. Jurado** and **Cristina Abao-Jurado** (†) and parents-in-law **Salvador C. Santos** (†) and **Esperanza G. Castillo-Santos** (†)

His brother, sister, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews and nieces
Drs. Rex and **Asuncion Zamora**
Raymond, Rachel

Ressa and **Rotillo Escanilla**
Tessa, Zillette and **Zaida**

Dr. Jose A. Joson and **Josefina C. Santos-Joson**
Peter Jonathan and **Joseph Salvador**

Atty. Wenceslao R. de la Paz (†) and **Corazon C. Santos-de la Paz**
Ma. Cristina

Salvador C. Santos, Jr. and **Luisa Arriola-Santos** (†)
Sandy, Eugene and **Sean**

Drs. Normando M. Bitanga and **Ester C. Santos-Bitanga**
Eileen Grace, Patrick and **Michael**

other relatives and friends

request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains will arrive in Manila on Friday, April 5, 2002 and will lie in state from 2:00 PM to midnight at the Sanctuario de San Antonio Mortuary, Mckinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City.
On April 6, his remains will be transferred to the Jurado residence at Pandan Heights, Bogo, Cebu.

Interment will be held on Sunday, April 7, 2002 at 2:00 PM at the Bogo Municipal Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Brain Foundation of the Philippines - U.P.-PGH Chapter or Division of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, U.P.-PGH or Daughters of Mary Help of Christians.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. Matthew 10:39

Eduardo "Dado" Bascon

Peacefully joined our Lord on April 1, 2002
at the age of 66.

His remains lie at Rizal Funeraria,
Libertad, Pasay City
from April 2-4, 2002 up to 2:00 PM
only and will be at the Kalesa Kape Resort Complex,
Brgy. Dila, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
from April 4-7, 2002.

Mass will be held at Sta. Rosa de Lima Parish Church at 1:00 PM. Interment follows at Burol Public Cemetery on April 7, 2002.

In Loving Memory

on the First Death Anniversary of

JORGE P. ARKONCEL, M.D.

who died in the Grace of our Lord
on April 4, 2001.

The Family requests relatives, friends and pious readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of his soul.

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"Thus shall ye think of all this fleeting world:
A star at dawn, a bubble in a stream.
A flash of light in a summer cloud...
A dream."
--Ancient Asian wisdom

Col. Deogracias "Dodong" Caballero

PMA CLASS 1940

rejoined his Creator on April 1, 2002. His devoted wife Ching Cannu;
children Linda (†), Deogracias Jr., Roberto, Conchita, Leticia and Ramon; sons in-law and daughters-in-law,
grandchildren, great-grandchildren, surviving sisters, brothers- & sisters-in-law, relatives and friends
request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.
His remains lie in state at the family residence on 32 Charleyville St. corner Whitefield St.,
White Plains, Quezon City. Requiem Mass will be held at the White Plains Chapel, Nathan St.,
White Plains, Quezon City, at 10:30 am on Sunday, April 7, 2002.
Interment follows at the San Juan Municipal Cemetery.

*Ching Caballero requests that in lieu of flowers, cash or cheques for her and her late husband's chosen charities will be most appreciated.

The Board of Directors, Officers and Staff of

TOKO KAIUN KAISHA LTD.

Expresses their sincerest condolences to

the family of their steadfast business partner

for the past 30 years

Col. Deogracias F. Caballero (Ret.)

who passed away on April 1, 2002

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, OFFICERS AND STAFF OF

Altamar International Shipping Company, Inc.

MOURNS THE PASSING OF THEIR PRESIDENT AND FOUNDING PARTNER

COL. DEOGRACIAS F. CABALLERO (RET.)

ON APRIL 1, 2002

HIS REMAINS LIE IN STATE AT #32 CHARLEYVILLE ST.,

WHITE PLAINS, QUEZON CITY.

INTERMENT WILL BE ON SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2002,

AFTER THE 10:30 A.M. REQUIEM MASS AT THE

WHITE PLAINS CHAPEL, NATHAN ST.,

WHITE PLAINS, QUEZON CITY

MOTORING

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Stately Urvan goes rural

By Tessa R. Salazar

A 600-YEAR-OLD giant balete tree with an ethereal cave-like interior, formed naturally by its spiraling thick stems, greeted us as we disembarked from the Nissan Urvan Estate in Baler, Aurora, in the mideastern coast of Luzon. Though this eerie spot in Baler seemed like a scene from "The Lord of the Rings," no elves came out of this imposing tree.

It occurred to me that there wasn't much of a difference between the cool, spacious interior of the Balete tree and the comfy insides of the Urvan Estate. For more than eight hours, 11 adults were contentedly dozing off the trip from Manila in the 12-seater Estate, a microbus model from Universal Motors Corp. If there's one thing Nissan should be proud of, it is the constantly cool air-conditioning system installed in the Estate. I can say that driving for more than 1,400 km under the intense summer sun, the Nissan reputation for cooling has held up. There is an aircon vent for everyone in the Estate. Vents are available even for the rearmost passengers of the Estate.

Expect from the Estate lots of legroom and plush seats. I had tall passengers with me, and they didn't feel cramped at all. The two foldable seats on the right edges were small from our own experience, however, for the simple reason that they had no headrests. Possibly, they were designed for kids, not adults who'd spend around 20 hours inside the van. Still, passengers on these seats weren't as comfortable compared to the other passengers.

Though three-point seat belts are installed in front for one driver and one passenger, I just wished all passengers would have three-point seatbelts too, instead of just lapbelts.

Nissan, however, has provided ample safety features in the Estate's body design. There's the front crushable zone that absorbs impact energy in a frontal collision. Nissan says that even in frontal crash test, cabin space would be safely tucked, preserving leg space and allowing the doors to be opened for a quick exit to safety.

The door guard beams, meanwhile, increase resistance to side impact. There's a rear under mirror, rear defogger and a rear wiper. These are extremely necessary when doing backing maneuvers on a big van. A back sensor, however, could have completed the safety package.

There are halogen lamps for greater vision when driving during foggy nights. There are grand windows for perfect scenic viewing. For its comfort and conveniences, it's a van for resort and hotel tourists, I would even say.

The gargantuan Urvan Estate is not intimidating to drive. Take it from this average-size female driver. The manual five-speed gear is soft and within reach. The indicators on the control panel are so immense you could easily spot it. There are enough cubbyholes. There are two cupholders in front, two on the middle, one on the third row and two on the backmost seats. There are also several pockets on the rear seats.

The Estate is responsive and alert, especially on abrupt braking maneuvers, which would make you wonder why other big vans couldn't be as responsive in this aspect as the Estate. Nissan credits this to the load sensing valve which automatically senses total load and weight distribution and optimizes the balance in brake pressure between the front disc and rear drum brakes for reliable braking—whether the van is full or empty.

Under its hood is a powerful ZD30DD diesel engine, which makes for an economical 10 km/liter, if my measurement serves me right. I would agree there indeed is brisk acceleration during overtaking. Except that the engine is a bit too responsive on the first and second gears, or perhaps because it was running barely 100 km when I got to test-drive it.

If you are wondering how much this stately van would cost you, the monotone version is P1,140,000 while the two-toned version is P1,150,000.

Its high-ground clearance would give you almost a bird's eye view of the traffic below, which, for a driver, would add enjoyment to an already luxurious drive.

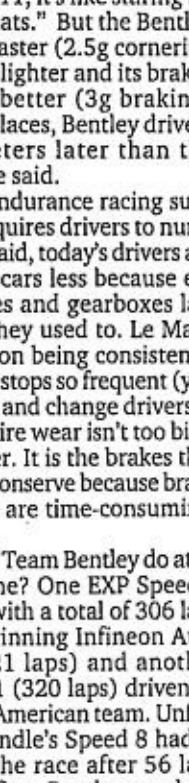
THE STATELY Urvan

PHOTOS BY MARLONE RUBIO

THE EXQUISITE, six-century-old balete tree is as cool and comfy as the air-conditioning system and interior of the Estate.

Back to Le Mans

ON THE ROAD



Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

AFTER AN ABSENCE of 70 years, can a car manufacturer win again in Le Mans? This was the question in the minds of motor sports fans in Le Mans, France last June when Bentley Motor Cars returned to the Circuit de la Sarthe.

Bentley is known to the general public as the British manufacturer of luxury limos, such as the 2001 State Limousine that Queen Elizabeth II used during her Golden Jubilee last year. But motor sports fans respect the Bentley marque for another reason: its glorious history at Le Mans in the 1920s.

The first British car to win the 24 Hours of Le Mans was a Bentley. This was in 1924, the year after the Automobile Club de l'Ouest (ACO) had adapted new rules for the annual race at La Sarthe to make it a grueling 24-hour test of a car's endurance as well as speed. The "flying B" won at Le Mans again in 1927 and 1928, swept the first three places and the fourth spot in 1929, then finished No. 1 and No. 2 in 1930 before vanishing from the La Sarthe grid for the next 70 years.

Last year, on June 16-17, after three years of preparations, Bentley was back to compete in the prestigious 900 kg prototype class with two EXP Speed 8's built by Racing Technology Norfolk, a wholly owned Audi subsidiary. (If you don't know it yet, Bentley Motor Cars was acquired by the Volkswagen-Audi Group some years ago.) The Speed 8 is a GTP coupé with a 3.6-liter, twin turbo 90 degree V8 modular Audi engine producing max 600 brake horsepower at 7,000 rpm and 479 lb ft max torque at 7,000 rpm. While its engine is German, the rest of the Speed 8 is British and the engine's inlet, exhaust manifolds, turbocharger and cooling system are different from the Audi engine's.

Bentley used Audi engines at Le Mans for financial as well as practical reasons. Without sponsors, Bentley lacks the funds to do racing engine research of its own. Besides, the winning power and reliability of Audi engines were proven when Audi captured first, second and third honors at Le Mans in 2000.

Bean counters may wonder why an elite but minor motor industry player that makes only 1,500 cars a year should take on a three-year Le Mans project costing more than US$15 million annually. Interviewed by Autocar, Bentley marketing director Adrian Hallmark said that after being a sister to Rolls Royce for 70 years, Bentley wants to reestablish its roots as an independent company. Bentley's Le Mans history indicates that racing suits its marque values. Its return to Le Mans is expected to improve market awareness and sharpen the brand image of Bentley as the worldwide media reports on its effort. Bentley thus gains exposure and raises awareness of its products without having to pay for TV ads as the year 2003, the launch date of the new mid-sized Bentley, approaches.

Martin Brundle, the most experienced of the six Bentley works drivers (a retired Formula One driver, he won the World Sportscar Championship in 1987 and Le Mans at the wheel of a Jaguar in 1990), described the Speed 8 as "so low that when you come up behind a Viper or a Porsche 911, it's like staring up at a block of flats." But the Bentley corners a lot faster (2.5g cornering capability), is lighter and its brakes are so much better (3g braking) that in some places, Bentley drivers brake 80 meters later than the GTPs, Brundle said.

Although endurance racing such as Le Mans requires drivers to nurse their cars, he said, today's drivers are nursing their cars less because engines, clutches and gearboxes last longer than they used to. Le Mans drivers focus on being consistently fast. With fuel stops so frequent (you have to refuel and change drivers in 25 seconds), tire wear isn't too big a problem either. It is the brakes that drivers try to conserve because brake replacements are time-consuming, Brundle said.

So how did Team Bentley do at Le Mans last June? One EXP Speed 8 placed third with a total of 306 laps behind the winning Infineon Audi R8-2001 (321 laps) and another Audi R8-2001 (320 laps) driven by Audi's North American team. Unfortunately, Brundle's Speed 8 had to drop out of the race after 56 laps because of a fire. Bentley was hoping that both its cars would finish among the top ten. But Bentley did leave seven Porsche 911 competitors eating its dust—the Porsche entries finished sixth down to 12th place. And hey, one car finishing third at Le Mans after being away for 70 years is not bad at all. In fact, it's wonderful.

* * *

ERRATUM: US$1.54 billion, not merely $1.4 billion, is the sum total of the budgets of the Formula One teams for this season.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: I think your hard drive has a slipped disk.

* * *

E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph

BENTLEY

SPECIAL anniversary edition of the popular 325iA model

BMW launches limited edition of 325iA model

TO MARK its successful first year in the Philippines, BMW is offering a special anniversary edition of the popular 325iA model equipped with additional premium accessories.

Only a limited number of 325iA units will be enhanced with accessories worth P340,000 in addition to the incomparable amount of standard equipment already installed in the Executive and Limousine variants.

The limited anniversary edition unit comes with new 17-inch star spoke alloy wheels for the Executive and 17-inch cross spoke alloy wheels for the Limousine. Aluminum black cube interior decor strip, chrome tailpipe cutter and a sporty trunk spoiler give both variants a distinctly aggressive and sporty appearance.

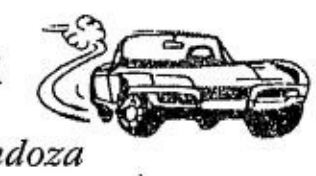
The 325iA Executive is available at P2.58 million and the 325iA Limousine at P2.45 million. And, the 40 exclusive buyers of the anniversary models receive a special 3 Series miniature model from BMW.

With only 40 units in stock, the vehicles will command a high residual value, and as such will be seen in the long term, as a good investment. This special offer begins April 1until stocks are sold, at all authorized BMW dealers.

BMW Philippines Corp., a subsidiary of BMW AG, commenced local operations in April 1 last year and remains to be the only subsidiary of a premium automobile manufacturer in the Philippines.

Paradise-like places, nice people along the way

FULL TANK



Al Mendoza

HEAVY traffic during the Holy Week exodus happened on Monday, Tuesday and Maundy Thursday. The ride back home to the big city—with traffic knotted and snarled—came on Easter Sunday.

I should know.

We left for Pangasinan on Wednesday morning. With just one "pit stop," we covered the distance (about 180 km) in a little over three hours. Stepped on the gas at an average 90-95 kph. Leisurely, if you compare that with the 300 kph run usually done by Formula 1 drivers.

Coming home, we did it in 2-1/2 hours. No pit stop. That was on Good Friday.

Indeed, what a good Friday that was. We had the whole world entirely in our hands.

On Black Saturday, we headed for Tagaytay. Not much traffic, too. The reason was, we took the Skyway from Magallanes. Then onward to that less-traveled road leading to the Riviera Golf & Country Club via Dasmariñas. Golfers always know the shortest way to their destination; they are trained for that as late arrivals for tee-off would mean either a two-stroke penalty or disqualification.

Coming back, it was also a virtual breeze. We retraced the same route (that's in Silang, in case you wanna know), skipping the lure of that supposedly friendly Sta. Rosa Expressway(?). Again using the Skyway, we were home earlier than expected.

Hot meal awaited us for dinner, wine and all during cocktails with Sol Juvida, the UP professor Dean Apo Chua had recently instructed to continue teaching Literary Journalism next semester at Diliman.

* * *

The trick really is in knowing when to leave, which road to take, what time of day. You need to have a careful study of things past. Experience is the best teacher, right?

Study the trends, too. And your neighbor's traveling habits. Usually, people move in droves. Buses overflow with passengers because of incorrect planning by vacationers.

Deviate from that. Don't go with the flow.

Ariel de Jesus left for Boracay on Wednesday (March 28). He's coming back today (April 4).

When he's back to the "rat-race world," he would have had the luxury of having tasted the best of both worlds: Boracay teeming with people during the Holy Week, and Boracay free of humanity the week after.

* * *

The trip to Pangasinan afforded me a chance to view things up close once again, especially San Fabian and Dagupan.

San Fabian, that romantic town by the sea, continues to attract its own share of patrons. Its Tandoc Island, where such movie stars like Fernando Poe Jr., Nova Villa and Dante Varona have vacation houses of their own, is rivaled only by the PTA beach in splendor and the breath taking view offered by the China Sea.

The PTA cottages, not to mention the sprawling beachfront, swimming pool and children's playground, are well-kept. They are clean, with water flowing in bursts at every turn of faucets.

Here's a glass to PTA head Nixon Kua. The same goes to both Dong Crisostomo, the PTA manager in San Fabian, and Jeremy Regino, Nixon's able deputy.

May your tribe increase, fellas.

* * *

And now a word from Volvo, that dream car of mine that remains, alas, a dream up to now:

"A super cup of coffee and safe and bump-free ride are two of life's simple pleasures. That is why Volvo teamed up with Seattle's Best for an exciting brew of events, kicking off with the Volvo Coffee Blow-out tomorrow, April 5, at Seattle's Best along E. Rodriguez Avenue, Quezon City. The occasion will feature Volvo V40's performance lifestyle, from 11 a.m. onwards."

* * *

Back to Dagupan City, where I had the happy occasion to break bread with Charlie Ngo and Teody Lalas.

Charlie happens to own Star Plaza, the city's favorite haunt among visitors and residents alike. I'm not surprised. Aside from the hotel's almost 5-star amenities, the food there is simply great. Buloy Al Fernandez, the three-term city mayor, adores the *halo-halo lugaw* there; he usually orders it in the morning after a night of drinking. It was Buloy, now the DILG assistant secretary of Joey Lina, who introduced me to Star Plaza. Like San Francisco-based Hermie Rivera, I kinda like every dish listed on the menu. My favorite, though, is seafood *misua* and the fried eel.

"But you should try the eel, adobo style," said Teody, my schoolmate I haven't seen for ages. "And lapu-lapu here is best steamed when bought fresh from the market."

Teody, married to a successful doctor from the most prosperous city up North, hasn't lost that baby-face look of his. No paunch, too, for the guy who, like me, sang every Beatle hit in the company of Caloy Rufo, Natnit Baptista, Odang Rosales and Flober Jasmin in the good, old Sixties.

As I left the city of my youth, I remembered Alvin, Buloy's son who is now vice mayor of Dagupan City. Didn't get to see him but I heard he's doing well. Jing Cardinoza, a noted journalist from the city, would attest to that.

I'm not surprised. Lineage, if not genetics.

Like father, like son.

* * *

Leo Ferreria deserves praise for his good dealer leadership. The president of Toyota Manila Bay has been hailed by both his subordinates and peers for his expert handling of Toyota's array of models lined up by the sea.

Keep up the good work, Leo.

And finally, to both Vir Diwa and Tonette Lee of Nissan Motor Philippines, my fervent hopes for a successful blast-off of the Nissan Marathon: The 4th Pan Philippine Run tomorrow, April 5.

The month-long odyssey that will bring the All-New Nissan Exalta GS Superio, with Willie Ingles and Andy Dysangco aboard, around the archipelago will surely be another milestone for Nissan, the giant carmaker with a reputation for staging incredible car rallies in the past.

You have my prayers.

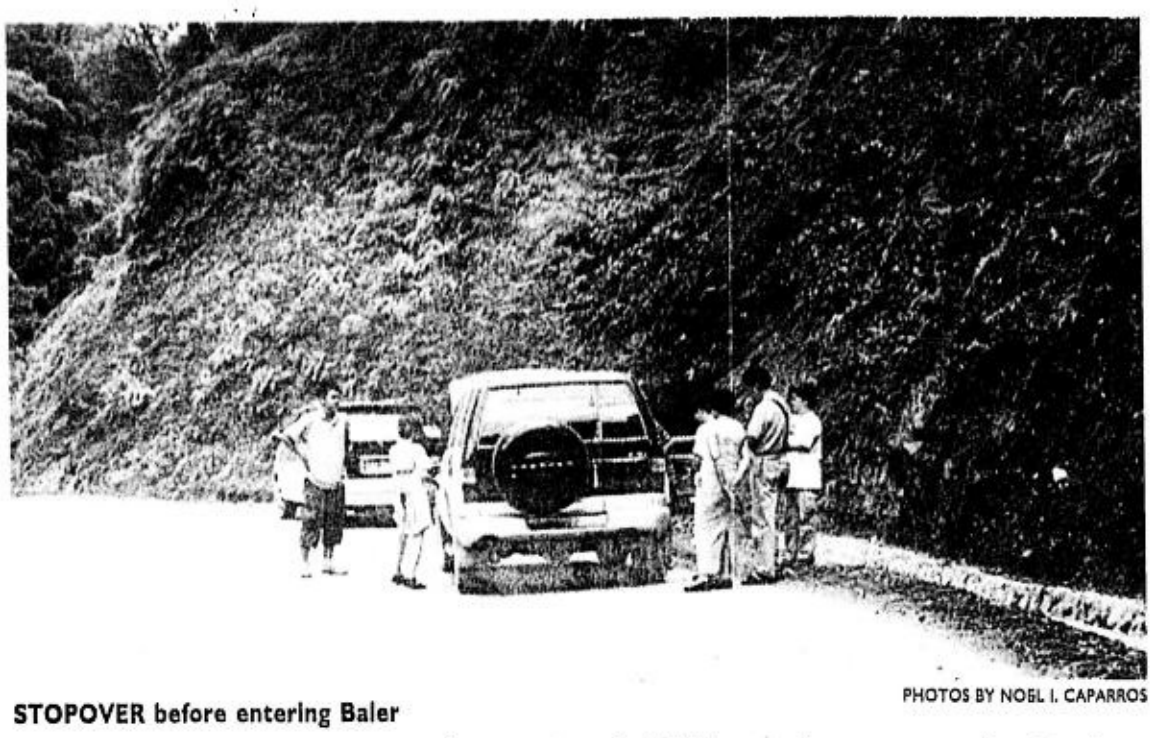
* * *

QUOTE ME. Go to fifth gear only when your speed is at least 80 kph or above.

DRIVING THROUGH AURORA

A treat for an adventurous motorist

By Raffy Castillo



STOPOVER before entering Baler

ONE of the zigzag roads we passed by

PHOTOS BY NOEL I. CAPARROS

WHEN Rep. Bellaflor Angara-Castillo (lone district, Aurora Province) invited us to spend the Holy Week in Baler and Casiguran in Aurora province, we were told: "You're going to have the toughest but most enjoyable ride of your life."

Coming back from Aurora, we knew exactly what she meant. It was a tough and rough ride all right, but quite a treat to the adventurous and nature-loving spirit in us as we drove through rough mountain roads zigzagging in the form of chicken intestines and occasionally tapering to as narrow as a lane and a half.

The refreshing forest cover of the Sierra Madre Mountain range made a fantastic backdrop. It was mid-morning when we hit the mountain range and we got a fantastic treat as the sun streamed down miles of deep gorges covered by lush greenery. The blue sky above completed the painting-like scenery.

Exhilarating experience

Our group, which proceeded to Casiguran and to Dilasag, also got an exhilarating experience crossing shallow streams numbering to about a dozen between Baler and Dilasag. It was actually similar to driving through flooded Manila streets during the rainy season but what made it more challenging was deciding which part of the clear stream to cross. It was fun and thrilling to decide for yourself but if one couldn't really be too sure and would like to play, or rather drive it safe, waiting for another vehicle to go first would be the safer option.

Aurora is bounded on the North by Isabela, on the South by the Northern port of Quezon, on the East by the Pacific Ocean, and on the West by Quirino, Nueva Vizcaya and Nueva Ecija. The province can be reached from Manila via two routes, the Canili-Pantabangan road and the Baler-Bongabon road. If you take the former route, you drive through the town of Maria Aurora. A fair warning though: some portions of the road are very steep.

We opted to take the latter route which led to the town of San Luis and ended in Baler. This route is more commonly used by travelers to Aurora. The use of public transportation is recommended for traveling to Baler, either a direct trip taking Genesis Bus from Pasay, or taking a bus to Cabanatuan and a connecting bus or jeep to Baler. Since we wanted to experience driving through the famed mountain range of Aurora, our group consisting of INQUIRER employees, decided to try out a couple of sports utility vehicles and a van.

We left Manila before dawn but even that early, since it was a Holy Wednesday, there was already a traffic snarl approaching the Balintawak entrance to the North Expressway. From Bulacan, we exited at Sta. Rita and took the road to Cabanatuan. As recommended by Paolo Suaverdez, our travel guide who is a member of Representative Castillo's staff, we made a pit stop and took a snack before heading up the mountains.

Bumpy ride

From Cabanatuan City, we followed the signs leading to Palayan and Bongabon until we came to a fork where a sign "To Baler" directed us to the right. After an hour of driving through paved roads, we reached the foot of the Baler-Bongabon highway which eventually ran right into Aurora National Memorial Park. This was where the bumpy ride on unpaved roads began. For first timers, beware of wild zigzagging roads, fast trucks and landslides especially during the rainy season. But these make for half the fun, excitement and adventure.

After approximately 150 kilometers, we saw the Aurora Welcome Arch. There was quite a notable difference in the mountain ranges as one left Nueva Ecija and approached Aurora. One could tell he is already in Aurora because of the lush virgin forests of the Sierra Madre Mountain range and the much cooler breeze.

We proceeded until we reached the town of San Luis. We stayed on the highway guided by the signs going to Baler, and after about half an hour we were already in the town proper of the birth site of President Manuel Quezon.

Unpaved roads

The roads are still generally unpaved but through the joint efforts of then Agriculture Secretary Edgardo Angara and Representative Castillo, and the support of the national government, paving of the Baler-Bongabon road will hopefully be completed in the next few years. This should cut travel time by almost two hours, making it a more comfortable trip for private vehicle travelers. By then, sports utility vehicles would no longer be the only suitable vehicle for a drive to Baler.

Distance from Manila to Baler is 230 kilometers and travel time is seven hours on the average including pit stops and snacks. Baler to Casiguran is another 125 km with rougher and steeper roads. Usual travel time is four hours, but with our veteran driver Mang Paquing, whom we requested to drive for us for this stretch, we would have managed it in less than three hours were it not for a flat tire which took an hour to vulcanize since there was a brownout.

Dilasag is only about 25 km from Casiguran with roads equally rough. The yet undiscovered and unspoiled white-sand beaches there beckon you to stay for at least another day. Lush mangroves, other tropical trees and exotic-looking shrubs and bonsais grow abundantly along the coastline providing a cool shade. One can also hang a hammock from the trunks of some trees and spend the whole afternoon just appreciating God's beautiful work on nature. I'm sure once tourists discover the place, it will be as crowded as Boracay. At least, we've been there before development has changed the beautiful land and seascape.

Stopover

It may be a little too much for the body and the vehicle to drive straight from Manila to Casiguran. Our recommendation is to make a stopover in Baler and enjoy the scenic and historical landmarks of the place. One can stay at Bay's Inn or the Angara Hotel along Sabang Beach, a surfer's paradise because of its tall but gentle 10-foot waves. Overnight stay costs a very reasonable P400-600.

Dinner at the Bay's Inn veranda is tops for ambience and can be quite an experience. Catch the full moon as it gradually rises from the mountain at about 8 in the evening and casts a silvery glow on the sea. It's an indescribable experience you have to see and feel for yourself. At least, once in your lifetime.

Hospitable people

Another reason a drive to the province of Aurora is most enjoyable is the hospitality of the people. As we passed, local residents were bathing and washing their clothes in fresh springs by the roadside. The big smiles on their faces with some of them waving at us were as refreshing as the fantastic scenery. We made several stops and the residents happily allowed us to use their toilets.

The province's government officials headed by Representative Castillo generously gave us a taste of the famed Aurora hospitality. These included Vice Gov. Annabelle Tangson, former vice governor Isaias Noveras Jr., board member Rodrigo Montero, Casiguran Mayor Jeremias Esteves, former mayor Elaine Usman of Dinalungan, Vice Mayor Zenaida Querijero, Councilors Ric Bautista and Reynaldo Mapindan of Baler, director Alex Ocampo of the Aurora Integrated Area Development Project and Dr. Lolly Angara, the most affable health officer of Baler.

John Mercado, the representative's all-around secretary, provided nonstop entertainment with his jokes that kept us in stitches, especially during the trip from Baler to Casiguran and back. Suaverdez was an efficient guide and trouble-shooter for our vehicle's engine problems.

Overall, despite the muscle aches and pains one may have after the trip, the seven-hour drive to Baler and another four-hour endurance ride to Casiguran and Dilasag are a big treat for any thrill-seeking motorist. So, if you're an adventurous all-terrain driver, and nature-watching is your kind of trip, a drive to Aurora Province is highly recommended. It will certainly be worth your time and gas. And you can take our word for it.

The spark that fired the dev't of the automobile

BEFORE YOU think of buying your spark for your Volvo, BMW, Daewoo, Toyota or Mitsubishi, did you know that it could be the 7.5 billionth Bosch spark plug produced since 1902? Statistics show that more than 350 million Bosch spark plugs are produced annually and there are 1,250 Bosch spark plug types currently available with 26 different electrode designs to choose from.

Nowadays, the Bosch spark plug, which has been developed and improved continuously over the decades, is a major system component that plays a key role in fuel economy, clean and efficient combustion and the reliable operation of engines and catalytic converters. Despite the tremendous increase in spark plug performance, the useful life of a spark plug is now about 20 to 30 times higher than the figure 90 years ago. Some special spark plugs even have a service life of 100,000 km.

New developments

Especially over the past few years, Bosch has shown the potential still offered by its traditional product. It is continually adapting to new developments in engine technology such as four-valve cylinder heads or lean mix engines .The latest example is the Volkswagen Lupo FSI, the first mass-produced car with a very low-consumption gasoline engine featuring both direct injection and stratified charging. Bosch not only supplies the entire injection and ignition system. All vehicles are also fitted with Bosch spark plugs developed especially for this engine as original equipment.

THE BOSCH service station in the 1920s

Decades of experience and a sustained development effort in close cooperation with virtually all the major vehicle producers have made Bosch one of the world's leading OEMs and after-market suppliers of spark plugs and the market leader in Europe.

Standard equipment

All the leading carmakers fit Bosch spark plugs as standard equipment. Bosch customers include Audi, BMW, Cadillac, Citroen, Fiat, DaimlerChrysler, Mitsubishi, Opel, Peugeot, Porsche, Renault, Seat, Skoda, Suzuki, Toyota, Volvo and VW. The range now includes more than 1,250 different models because many modern engines call for their own tailor-made spark plugs. All in all, Bosch has developed more than 20,000 different types of spark plug over the past 100 years.

In 1902, Bosch produced about 300 spark plugs. Now the company's plant in Bamberg alone produces about a million spark plugs every working day and worldwide production is about 350 million spark plugs per year. Bosch also produces spark plugs at its plants in India, Brazil, China and Russia for local markets and manufacturers. In total, Bosch has produced excessively more than seven billion spark plugs. Laid end to end, they would stretch more than 350,000 kilometers, all the way to the moon.

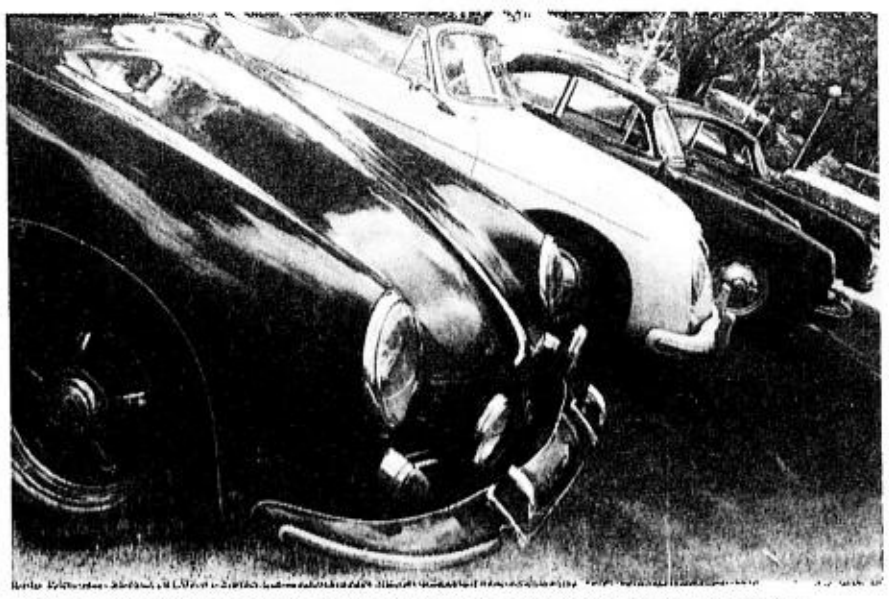
Porsche featured marque at Trans Sport Show

THE COUNTRY'S premier motoring exposition, Trans Sport Show 2002 opens on Saturday at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall B, Ortigas Center, Edsa, Mandaluyong City.

TradeShow International Inc., the show's organizer came up with this year's theme, "Auto Design Evolution." The theme focuses on cars with timeless designs which have evolved, through years of refinement, into a more modern and more driver-friendly versions while still retaining an original design heritage.

In keeping with the theme, the featured marque, Porsche, will showcase a variety of the much-sought-after Porsche 356s. The legendary Porsche 356, whose humble beginnings started more than a sporting version of the unassuming Volkswagen has slowly, patiently and expertly evolved into a sports car of great ability that still engenders respect and fond memories.

Volkswagen Beetle designer Ferdinand Porsche may have given the world the "people's car," but it was his son Ferry who, with longtime associate Karl Rabe, created the 356. These days a Porsche stands for precision, performance, purity and perfection. The 356 was the first chapter in that illustrious history. It was so named because it was the 356th project from the Porsche design office, which started doing business in 1930. It was also the first car to bear the Porsche name.



SEVERAL pristine Porsche 356s owned by collectors, members of the Porsche Club of the Philippines

A pert, nimble and a tail happy handling, the pretty 356 is the foundation stone of a proud sporting tradition. The Porsche 356 was a triumph of creative expediency and inspired engineering, taking basic VW Beetle elements to create a new breed of sports cars. Aficionados adore the earliest cars often affectionately dubbed "jelly molds," and, like a jelly settling on a plate, the shape settled and spread out over the years to become flatter and sleeker.

The Porsche Club of the Philippines took the task of assembling beautiful examples of the Porsche 356 to be displayed at the show, from the Series A, Series B, to the final evolution Series C model. It is very active right now and has one of the largest and most loyal followings.

The show's main highlight is the Trans Sport Show Cup—Open Class Car Competition. Over 50 meticulously prepared European and Japanese cars, from classics to contemporary, will compete for class honors and the top plum of "Best of Show." Last year's "Best of Show" winner is the 1997 BMW 3161 owned by Larry Ignacio. It is the first time in the history of Trans Sport Show that the top award went to a modern car, breaking the hold of classic and vintage cars that dominated the competition for many years.

Another much-awaited program of the show is the selection of this year's Ms Trans Sport Show. Conceptualized in 1998, it is open to all promotional girls of corporate exhibitors at the show. It is not only the overall appearance that counts, but also the contestant's knowledge of the product that she is promoting.

Trans Sport Show is also the place to visit if you are in need of car care products, car accessories, wheels, tires, automotive maintenance equipment and other related services.

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START/ p.C3

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See Posters and Flyers for complete details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1128 Series of 2002.

On the safety of insect-repellent products

SOMETIME ago, we had an item in this column about mosquito repellents with the active ingredient called Deet. Considered one of the most effective repellents, Deet at some concentrations, however, has been known to pose health risks. This was the reason the US Environmental Protection Agency required manufacturers of Deet-based products to use labels that ensured its safe application. It also stopped claims that the product was "child safe."

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

Among the feedback we received was an irate letter from the official of a company that manufactured a top-selling insect repellent containing Deet. Among other things, the official told us to print his letter in its entirety so readers "are given the full and complete set of facts" about the company's product. He claimed that the product was "safe for people of all ages in any concentration."

Which Johnson?

We received one more letter, this time from Grace C. Chua, marketing director of Johnson & Johnson ASEAN (Philippines). She pointed out that we should have specified in our column the complete name of the manufacturer instead of simply referring to it as Johnson's.

Here is Chua's letter: "There are several companies who have Johnson's as part of their corporate name—Johnson & Johnson, SC Johnson, MEAD Johnson—all are entirely independent and separate from one another.

"Your clarification is all the more important given that we offer a Deet-free insect repellant lotion for babies and kids under the brand name Johnson's Baby Lotion Anti-Mosquito... (It) has been in the market for three years, and has always been promoted as gentle and safe protection for babies and kids, primarily because it is Deet-free.

"Mindful of several documented scientific studies and findings on adverse events associated with the use of Deet and the recommendation of the US Environmental Protection Agency that Deet at whatever concentration should be banned for pediatric use, our brand will continue to uphold a Deet-free formulation. Johnson's Baby Lotion Anti-Mosquito uses *Ethyl Butylacetylaminoproprionate* similar to naturally occurring amino acids, as its alternative agent against mosquito bites. It has been proven to be a safe protection for babies, 6 months above, and likewise as equally effective against mosquito bites as Deet is. This has been proven in clinical studies and tests conducted in the Philippines and in other countries."

Interested readers can write to Chua for more information. Her address is Johnson & Johnson ASEAN, Edison Road, Bo. Ibayo, Parañaque.

Readers' complaints

Babsi C. of babsic@edsamail.com.ph complained about the discrepancy between price tags on products and price read by the cashier's electronic scanner. She wrote, "P90 was the price tag of a package of chicken at the grocery in Ever Gotesco Commonwealth. However, when the cashier passed the item through the e-scanner, the price that came out was P99. After this was verified, the store staff admitted their mistake. I refused to buy the product. Some time last year, I had the same experience. However, I was made to pay the price that appeared on the scanner, which of course, was higher than the tag price. Is this legal?"

N.R. Villamayor of winsomedaniel@hotmail.com wrote: "Quick Chow Pancit Canton advertisement should change the catch line *'Mapapamura ka sa sarap!'* Don't we teach children—as our parents taught us—that swearing is bad? Has there been a change in our values that we now encourage people to swear just because the food tastes so good?"

From Sara T. of saratitat@yahoo.com: "My brother came home some weeks ago from a vacation in Marinduque. He reported that the local cable TV company was showing movies that were currently being screened in movie houses. What's more, during the Metro Manila Filmfest, all the entries in the festival were simultaneously being shown in the local theater."

M. Dy of mdy@edsamail.com.ph wrote: "Why do theater ticket outlets charge a service fee ranging from 3-5 percent higher than the ticket price? Why should customers pay more at these outlets. It's not fair to theatergoers."

C. Apolonio of cpapolonio@yahoo.com pointed out that picture displays of food available at fast-food outlets are a far cry from the actual dish served to customers. He wrote, "What you see at the displays are not what you get. At a popular food chain, for example, the picture shows a big chunk of pork chop on a platter. I ordered the tempting dish. What they served me was a plate with four teeny bits of meat."

From T. Joaquin of tinajoaquin@hotmail.com: "My son found an insect in his iced tea at a diner in a mall at Ermita. We called the waitress and showed the insect to her. Her reply floored us. She said, 'Fruit flies *lang ho iyan*.' She then offered to replace the drink."

N. Franco of nolifrancco@edsamail.com.ph wrote: "Why is there only one attendant during peak hours at some Goldilocks outlets in Southmall, Glorietta and Megamall. Service is slow because of it."

Franco also complained of the constant ringing of cellular phones in a movie house in Alabang Town Center. "This was reported to the manager, but nothing has been done so far. We live in a nearby village, but because of the cell phone nuisance, we prefer to watch movies in Southmall."

From JP Hong of hongjp@netasia.net: "Here in Binondo area, our water fee ranges from P1000 to P3000. We used to pay P700 for our water consumption. Our neighbor who lives alone got a bill for P1000. When I called up Maynilad to protest, I was told that nothing could be done about it because the rate increase was already approved. Why do we pay exorbitantly for this basic necessity?"

DOTC Hotline 7890

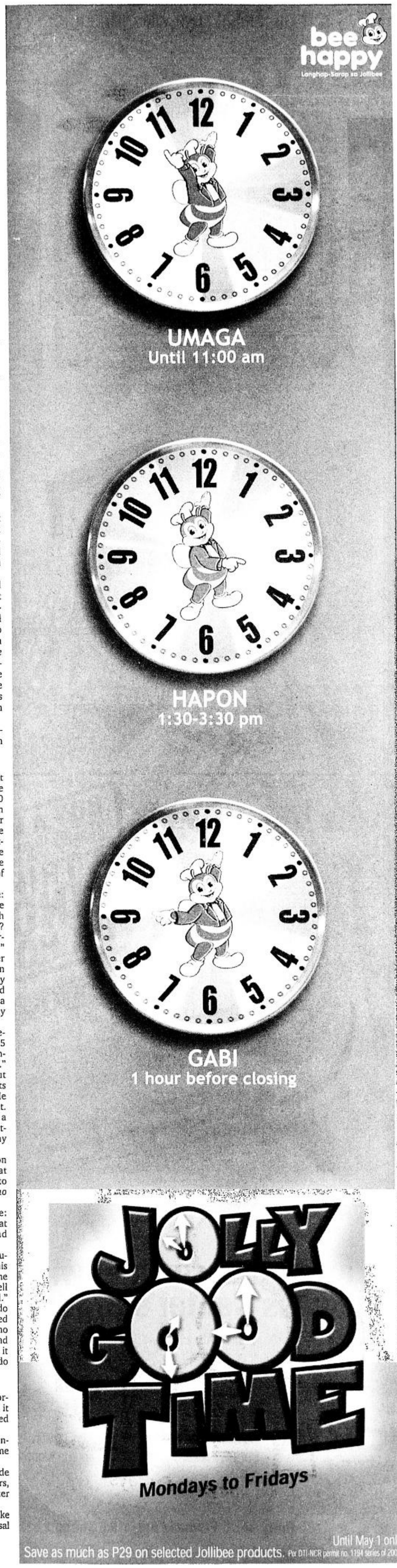
Passenger hotline 7890 at the Department of Transportation and Communication is now a year-old. We tried it and it's working at full force. Operator Venus answered us and gave us the following information we needed.

To report complaints, give operator the following information: plate number; date/time/place of event, name of driver and company name of buses and taxis.

Leading complaints received at Hotline 7890 include the following: refusal of taxi drivers to convey passengers, fast meters, contracting passengers, refusal to use meter and overcharging.

Passengers are urged to report other offenses like smoke belching, illegal terminals, colorum, arrogant drivers, refusal to wear uniform, drunken driving and reckless driving.

E-mail the author at mgiron@csi.com.ph



TASTEMAKERS

EDDIE Bouffard, Chiqui Lara and owner Jesus Armas

Terrific two

BRANDED by Señor Jesus Armas and set up by two young partners, Casa Armas on Jupiter Street in Makati continues to be the best place for authentic Spanish dishes in town after two years in operation.

Señor Jesus has kept the culinary flame burning through his devoted supervision and delicate touch. He reinvented the diverse Spanish cuisine, which is so similar to that of the Filipino's. He offered the guests these special menus such as the *embutido*, *lengua*, *afritada*, *croquettas de hamon*, the Boquerenos king crabs and the *cochinilla*, a roasted 21-day old suckling pig.

Diplomats, business people and friends of Casa Armas attended the party and they were entertained by the Centro de Flamenco dancers and Spanish guitarists. Guests danced the night away doing the *salsa y baila*.

Casa Armas branches are located at Jupiter, Makati; Malate, Ortigas and Davao.

DANTE Aguila, Lorraine Lim Aguila and Edwin Peña

MARGARITA Locsin and Clarence Romana

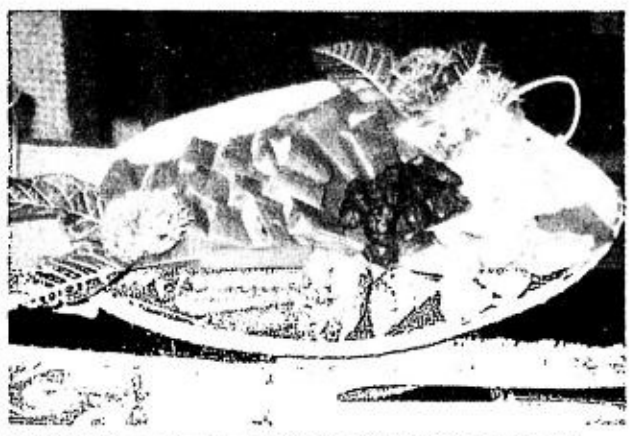
LAURA Lim and S. Moores

LYNETTE Armas and Lala Padilla

Water toys to go with summer

HAVE a wet and wild time discovering underwater secrets with Jollibee and friends Popo, Hetty and Twirlie on board their own sea-faring vessels: bob up and down the ocean depths with Jollibee in his specially designed dive suit; fill up playful Popo's squirter with water and press its lever for a water spout; wind up the periscope on Hetty's submarine and she's ready to make waves on an ocean adventure and scour the sea depths for exotic life-forms with Twirlie in her radar-equipped ship. Twirl the radar and watch as the hook comes up the water.

Who knows what adventures await you at the bottom of the ocean with the Jollibee Sea Quest? Each high quality toy is available with every Jolly Kiddie Meal.



MORE Silay City breakfast food from the market: *Suman sa ibus, empanada, panara, alupi*

Start the day right like a king

From page C1

spired.

An old friend from a large, traditional mestizo family could not fathom the foolishness of the breakfast crowd he witnessed in New York: rushing, gulping down coffee and a Danish at a stand-up table, or taking cups of coffee to go, to sip along the way or at one's desk. What kind of start is that, for the first day of the rest of your life?

I love breakfasts, and have been blest with memorable ones all through my life. There was, first of all, the Ilonggo family breakfast: *calo-calo* (*sinangag*), sometimes with tiny dried shrimps (*kalkag*) mixed in, scrambled eggs with or without *burong mustasa*, some wonderful salted fish (*binuro, pinakas*) or sausages (*longganisang hamonado, de recado* or *hubad*); sometimes *bas-oy*, a soup of ground pork, onions and ginger.

Or breakfasts in the marketplace, which are not identified by special food, but are open to all lunch or dinner dishes: like *bachoy*, the famous market dish of noodles, broth, spleen, liver, heart, kidneys, etc.; or, in the Cebu market, tiny boneless daft fried crisp; or in the Dumaguete market, *suman* with thick chocolate; or in Bohol, *suman* ginger-flavored, with strong *tsukwate*. And in Pagsanjan, a sweetish, tender *suman sa ibus* of *malagkit*, with ripe golden mangoes.

Whether you breakfast at home, marketplace or a restaurant, the possibilities are endless

A few weeks ago, my class of young Jesuits and I started a round-the-lake tour of churches with breakfast at Balaw-Balaw in Angono. Perdigon Vocalan, founder, chef and artist, is gone now (from heart complications at age 56), but his widow, Luzvimin Layok Vocalan, runs the restaurant with verve and imagination and, she swears, the loving guidance of Digon.

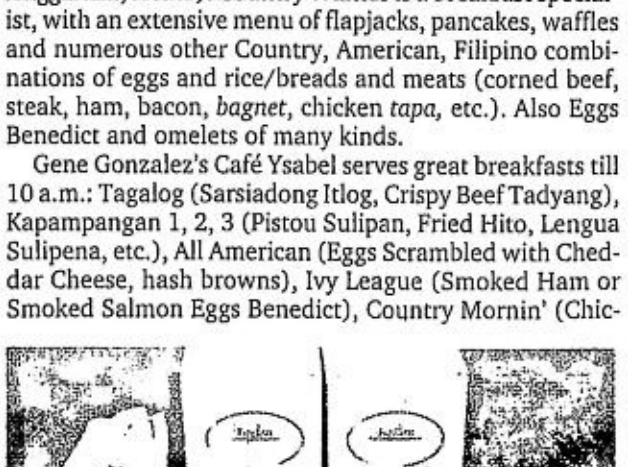
Here's what we had: *arroz caldo* from a giant *palayok*, beside it a carved *sungkaan* holding condiments and toppings: chopped scallions, toasted garlic, *kasubha* threads, chicken, eggs, *tokwa't baboy*, *goto* strips, etc. Mix, match, invent, dare, enjoy. There were as well *apa-apa*, crisp Angono shrimp *okoy*, and hot native chocolate with *suman* of *malagkit* and *pirurutong* (violet) rice, a crunchy accent. With that to start the day, we were energized to visit the churches of Angono (stations of the cross designed by National Artist Botong Francisco), Morong high on a hill, Baras, Tanay, Pakil, Paete and, finally, Pagsanjan (for lunch as well).

Specialists

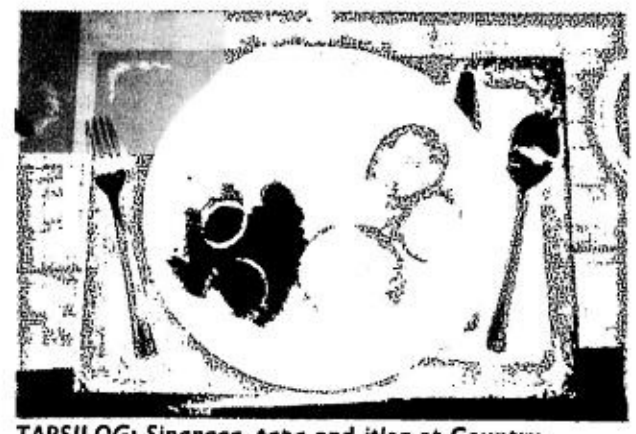
Restaurants serve breakfasts, too, of course. McDonald's and Jollibee in front of the Ateneo are patronized by parents, grandparents and children, for American (e.g. hot biscuits) and Filipino breakfasts (e.g. *tapang baka, longganiza, tocino*). Country Waffles is a breakfast specialist, with an extensive menu of flapjacks, pancakes, waffles and numerous other Country, American, Filipino combinations of eggs and rice/breads and meats (corned beef, steak, ham, bacon, *bagnet*, chicken *tapa*, etc.). Also Eggs Benedict and omelets of many kinds.

Gene Gonzalez's Café Ysabel serves great breakfasts till 10 a.m.: Tagalog (Sarsiadong Itlog, Crispy Beef Tadyang), Kapampangan 1, 2, 3 (Pistou Sulipan, Fried Hito, Lengua Sulipena, etc.), All American (Eggs Scrambled with Cheddar Cheese, hash browns), Ivy League (Smoked Ham or Smoked Salmon Eggs Benedict), Country Mornin' (Chicken Fried Steak with Milk Gravy, Homemade Corned Beef in Sawmill Gravy, Salmon Hash with Horseradish Cream), Continental (French Toast with Gruyere and Smoked Ham) and combinations thereof.

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL: *Empanada, piaya, lumpiang ubod* for breakfast or *merienda*



MANGOES, *suman* (*malagkit* and *pirurutong*) at breakfast at Balaw-Balaw



TAPSILOG: *Sinangag, tapa* and *itlog* at Country Waffles

All day

Café All Day serves breakfast all day, with enough assorted entrées to warrant years of breakfasts. Consider rib-eye *tapa*; smoked boneless *bangus* sautéed with garlic chips; a Popeye Spinach Omelet with spinach, tomatoes, leeks, spring onions, feta cheese and sour cream; a Veggie Special omelet with cheddar cheese, fresh herbs, homemade salsa, fresh vegetables and roasted pepper; and (my favorite so far) a Wild Mushroom Scramble with fresh button, shiitake and oyster mushrooms, red onions, parsley and homemade salsa. And more, all in giant servings.

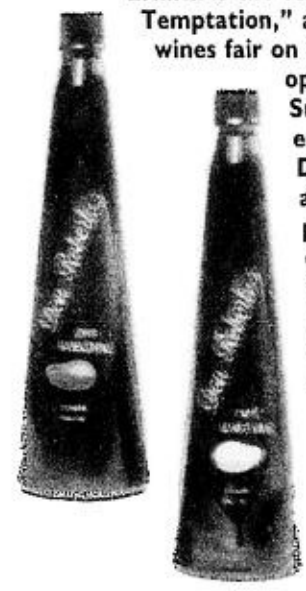
The Chinese breakfast was the ancestor of our *arroz caldo* and *goto*, and still makes tremendous sense. The soft rice (not just boiled in more water than usual, but whipped and whisked and flavored till velvety), with fish, chicken, pork balls, chicken balls, Tsientsin vegetables, etc., and of course dumplings and noodles and steamed buns. These keep the North Park noodle houses going all day. I've had Chinese breakfasts in Hong Kong long ago, in a bird-fanciers' haunt, where the birds in magnificent, jade-fitted cages hung in the sunlight to converse, just as their owners did.

Nor should we forget the Spanish breakfasts at Dulcinea and La Tienda: *churros* and *chocolate*, if you wish: or bread/rice and spicy *chorizos*. Try as well the Chocolate "E" at Larry Cruz's restaurants, which can come with Spanish or Filipino breakfast food, like flaked *adobo*, *paksiw na tilapia*, *tapang usa*.

Breakfasts in our country have evolved from the peasant fried rice—fish (especially *paksiw*, good hot or cold vegetables left over from the night before); through the Chinese (*lugaw, siopao, siomai*), Spanish (*chorizos, churros, chocolate*) and American inputs (ham, bacon, toast, bagels, jams), to embrace all of the above and produce this plethora of pleasures—the unending possibilities of Filipino fast-breaking.

Have a good day, everyone!

THE ROBINSONS Place Manila in Ermita is the venue of "Sweets Temptation," a cakes, pastries and wines fair on April 15-29 at the G/F opposite the Supermarket. The exhibit features Designers' Cakes for all occasions, select pastries and wine collections. The exhibit is open from 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Call 820-7879/1570. Photo shows the first and only mango wine collection from Don Roberto's winery, available at introductory price at the exhibit.



Classes for beginners and experienced cooks

THIS month, Dorothy's Cooking School offers hands-on baking and cake decorating courses for children, absolute beginners and the more experienced.

In the "Fundamentals of Fondant and Basic Gumpaste Flowers" (April 15 and 16), students will learn how to make gumpaste flowers using cutters, modeling tools and by free hand.

The "Versatile Star Tip for Borders and Simple Lettering" (April 18 and 19) is another hands-on session exploring the versatility of the star tip for elegant but easy-to-do borders such as stars, shells, triple cord, etc.

Simplified lettering techniques will also be taken up. "Hands-On Baking I" (April 20) designed for absolute beginners will feature the preparation of ingredients, mixing, baking and frosting the cake lessons. Recipes will be Moist Chocolate Fudge Cake with Chocolate Ganache, No-Bake Cheesecake with Peaches and Cream, and Carrot Cake with Cream Cheese Frosting.

"Hands-On Baking II" (April 22) is for those who want to learn recipes that require the intricacies of the folding procedure. Students will prepare the following from start to finish: Light Vanilla Cake with Marshmallow Icing and Praline, Butter Cake with Old-Fashioned Caramel Frosting and Peaches and Cream Pie.

"Cut-up Theme Cakes" (April 23 and 24) is a fun course on how to create exciting cake figures such as The Wicked Witch of the West, Easter Bunny, Huggable Teddy Bear and others using cakes baked in basic baking pans, cut up to form different shapes and frosted with butter cream to complete the figure.

Hands-on cooking classes for beginners and young adults are also scheduled. "From Soup to Dessert" (April 9) is a complete gourmet menu to prepare from start to finish. The course includes presentation and table-setting. Recipes to be taught are Homemade Cream of Chicken Soup, Chef's Salad, Baked Fish Fillet in Phyllo Pastry, Baked Pork Chops with Savory Rice Filling and Fruit Gelatin with Pandan Sauce. "Pasta and Salad" (April 11) is the perfect course for those who love to have friends over. Featured recipes are: Baked Macaroni, Fancy Pasta with Chicken and Mushrooms, Party Shrimp Salad, Fruited Chicken Salad, Assorted Dips for Chips and Veggies and Grilled Bread.

Each of these hands-on courses is limited to 10 students. Call 721-7735.

April is Skin Awareness Month at Facial Care Centre

It's that time of the year when the sun is hotter and the air seems to be drier. The season when you worry most about your skin's condition. However you love the outdoors during summer, the heat is unkind to your skin, it usually helps accelerate the ageing process. Worry no more! Facial Care Centre, the country's leading skin improvement expert, helps you save your skin as you enjoy the year's hottest season, with its Skin Awareness Month.

This April, Facial Care Centre lets you in on important information about your skin: how it functions, why it reacts to certain substances and environmental factors, and how you can actually improve its condition.

Not many people realize that skin is the body's largest organ. It is through your skin that you feel the temperature, texture, pressure as well as the sense of touch. A sensitive organ, skin is vital to the entire physiological system, as it helps keep your body temperature normal, which in turn helps keep the internal organs functioning as they should. It protects your body from harmful foreign substances, bacteria, and the damaging ultraviolet rays of the sun. It also helps retain essential body fluids and heals most of its own wounds.

Bare your skin but know how to protect it. Ask the Facial Care Centre experts.

Beautiful, healthy skin anytime, any season...with Facial Care Centre's Reverse Ageing Force.

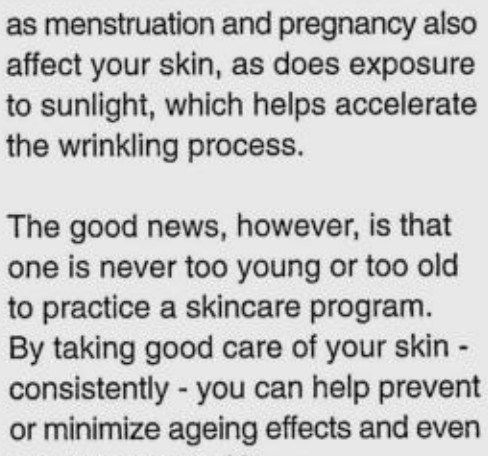
Whether you're asleep or awake, your skin performs its functions. A highly responsive organ, it reacts to both the internal changes in your body and the environment around you. Therefore, it is necessary to modify your skincare to accomodate such factors as age, hormonal influences and environmental conditions.

One of the most significant factors responsible for changes in your skin condition is ageing. As you age, your skin becomes less elastic, as the collagen and elastin fibers become less effective in supporting the skin. Hence, lines formed by facial movements and facial expressions may become deeper and more noticeable, causing the skin to wrinkle and lose its firm texture. Hormonal influences such as menstruation and pregnancy also affect your skin, as does exposure to sunlight, which helps accelerate the wrinkling process.

Zero-in on your specific problem areas. Let the experts at ***Facial Care Centre*** *handle them. Then enjoy life as your skin undergoes a beautiful transformation.*

The good news, however, is that one is never too young or too old to practice a skincare program. By taking good care of your skin - consistently - you can help prevent or minimize ageing effects and even reverse some of it.

Your skin reflects the special care and knowledge you invest on it. So to learn more about this vital information, visit Facial Care Centre anytime this month. All-year-round, our experts continuously inform concerned clients on skincare matters. April is specially dedicated to skin awareness since it is the start of that cruel summer season. Starting now, we hope to help you prevent those imperfections and ageing signs from showing up. For



those whose ageing signs are already obvious, we can help you stop them in their tracks, or better yet...reverse them.

So let the experts at Facial Care Centre zero-in on your specific problem areas to help you achieve that sun-savvy skin. And, with **BIG DISCOUNTS** *plus* **FREE CONSULTATION**, you're sure to experience *Reverse Ageing* first hand! All these for you - all month.

For more information on FCC's Skin Awareness Month promo offers, please check Facial Care Centre's print ads for contact numbers or you may visit the branch nearest you.

Look Young. Feel Young.

Facial Care Centre's

Skin Awareness Month

April 2002

Come to Facial Care Centre and get ***BIG*** *discounts plus* ***FREE consultation!*** *Now you can experience Reverse Ageing first hand.*

All these for you...all month.

Call Facial Care Centre NOW!

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*machine treatments

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815-3121 / 815-3123	687-2197	372-6634	717-0076	809-9583 / 850-4577	243-8602 / 243-9895	920-7992 / 920-8064	860-2663/64	233-7633/35
GT Tower, Ayala Ave. cor. H.V. dela Costa St.	631-3007 • 631-3045 Robinsons Equitable Tower, ADB Ave.	410-3709 • 410-3710 Cedar Executive Bldg. Timog Avenue	Sunshine Square Plaza	Citibank-Frabelle Bldg. Alabang-Zapote Rd.	City Plaza Tower, Plaza del Conde St.	Q Plaza Congressional Avenue	Dan's Marketing Bldg., Mc Arthur Highway, San Fernando	Keppel Centre, Cebu City

ALL CENTERS ARE NOW OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK.

Per DTI NCR Permit #1054 Series of 2002

MON. - FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SAT. (8 AM - 5 PM) / SUN. (10 AM - 3 PM)

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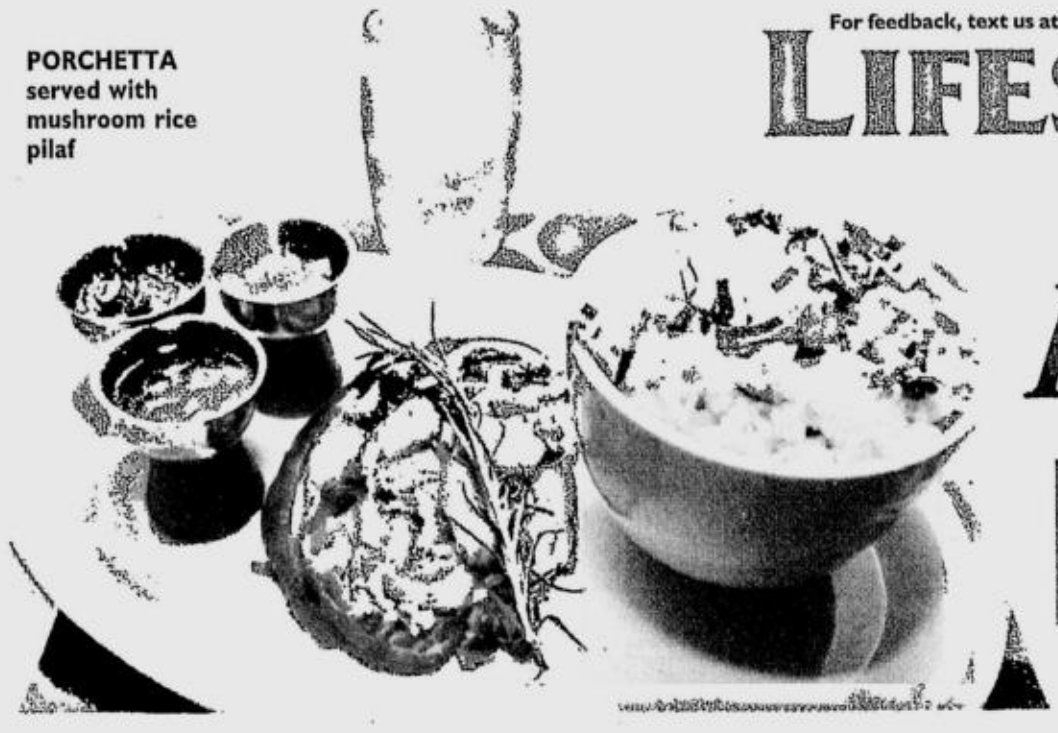
LIFESTYLE

Tastes

D1



PORCHETTA served with mushroom rice pilaf

Fast-food 'lechon,' Italian style

By Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Johnny Villena

IN KEEPING with Cibo's newest location, restaurateur Margarita "Gaita" Fores has introduced several dishes inspired by Italian street food. Porchetta or cured pork slices in a sandwich or served with rice is one such addition available only at the restaurant's SM Megastrip branch.

Call it Italy's version of Philippine *lechon*. Before a porchetta is pit-roasted, however, the pig is deboned and stuffed with rosemary, garlic, salt and black pepper. This combination of herbs and spices gives the meat a characteristic zesty taste absent in a typical *lechon*. Its skin is juicy but far from crispy. A piece of string wound around the pig keeps it from falling apart during roasting.

"The porchetta's skin isn't meant to be crispy," Fores explains. "We just chop it into pieces and reheat the skin in the oven to make it crispy."

Porchetta is usually served during fiestas. According to an article in the March issue of Saveur magazine, the dish originated in a place in Italy called Umbria. It's now served at fairs and stands throughout the country and has become a specialty in and around Rome. Fores chanced upon it last year during one of her trips to the Eternal City.

"They even have porchetta stands near the airport to cater to travelers out to while the time away," she says. "Since the weather in Rome is nowhere as hot as Manila's, they roast bigger pigs that last for days without spoiling."

Crusty or soft

These carved slices of meat usually go best with crusty rolls or *duro* (hard) bread. As a concession to Filipino diners, Fores also serves them in *morbido* (soft) bread or with mushroom rice pilaf.

No matter what variant you choose, each serving comes with three dips: fruit, *maionese* (mayonnaise) and the traditional liver sauce. Don't expect the latter to resemble closely Mang Tomas' formula. Western touches extend to the liver sauce with a dash of red wine and the fruit dip or *mostarda di frutta* made of puréed apples, pears and dried figs.

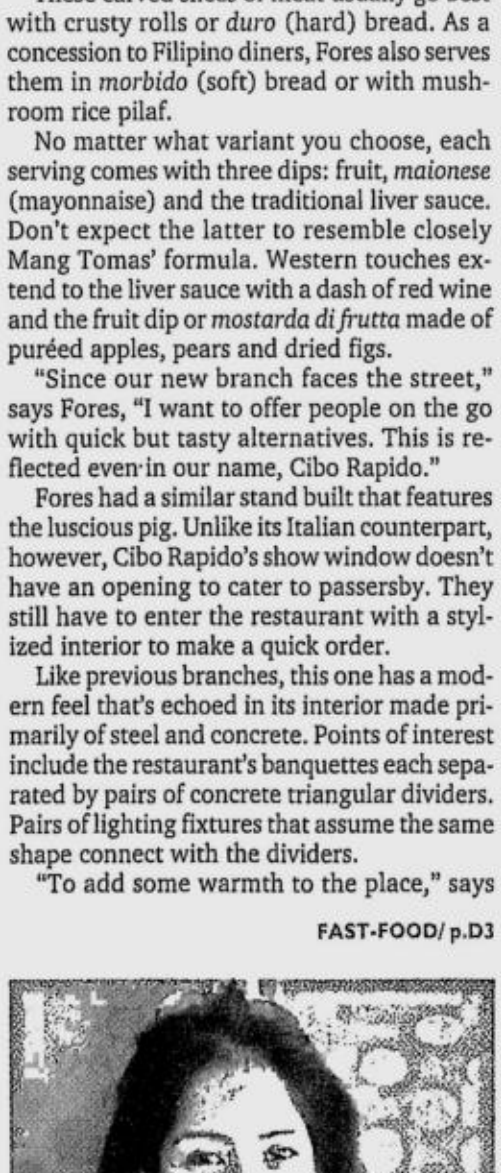
"Since our new branch faces the street," says Fores, "I want to offer people on the go with quick but tasty alternatives. This is reflected even in our name, Cibo Rapido."

Fores had a similar stand built that features the luscious pig. Unlike its Italian counterpart, however, Cibo Rapido's show window doesn't have an opening to cater to passersby. They still have to enter the restaurant with a stylized interior to make a quick order.

Like previous branches, this one has a modern feel that's echoed in its interior made primarily of steel and concrete. Points of interest include the restaurant's banquettes each separated by pairs of concrete triangular dividers. Pairs of lighting fixtures that assume the same shape connect with the dividers.

"To add some warmth to the place," says

FAST-FOOD/ p.D3



RESTAURATEUR Margarita "Gaita" Fores

Look forward—softly. With shades of beige-washed pinks and mauves for lips and nails. 'Pops' of sheer brilliance on eyes, cheeks, lips and skin from new Floating Color compacts. The effect is totally new and extremely Spring 2002. The collection starts from ₱630.

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BY MIKE PETERS

A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO

PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR

SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY

SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

CHICHOY CHOKOY

BY IKOY RICIO

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Robert Downey Jr., Craig T. Nelson, Anthony Perkins, Nancy McKeon
Happy Birthday: You will easily win the hearts of those you encounter this year. You will actively pursue all that offers both mental and physical stimulation. Jealousy and intrigue could be your downfall if you aren't careful. This is a year of change and the more open and accepting you are the further you will go. Your numbers are 3, 17, 20, 29, 35, 48

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You will have to be careful that you pay enough attention to your family. Although you will be able to make new friends, include the ones who have stood by your side the longest.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Travel will enhance romance and adventure today if you take advantage of the opportunities. You will expand your circle of friends if you get involved in group endeavors.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Money can be made today. Take time to find out about an investment that sounds intriguing. Romantic relationships can grow closer if you spend time with the person you care most about.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You will be emotionally up and down today. Heated arguments will erupt if you are negative about everything.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Changes at work may not appear to be to your benefit at first glance. If you are accepting and professional about the alterations you can expect to see advancement come your way. Be patient.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will be highly competitive today. Your endurance and stamina level will far surpass any opponent you face. Get involved in sports activities; you will gain satisfaction from your accomplishments.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Changes in your home may be disruptive but probably necessary. Your insecurity will show if someone criticizes your attempts to find solutions. Don't waffle now.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Be observant and learn all you can about the people you like the most. A good listener will always gain the confidence of those he or she listens to. You'll be right where you want to be and that's in control.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Behind-the-scenes financial activity will be in your best interest. Talk to superiors about your intentions. If you travel for work-related purposes you will achieve exactly what you are trying to do.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Stay calm and don't let someone you love push your buttons. Your emotions may get the better of you if you aren't careful. You may want to spend some time by yourself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): This is not the best time to go against the rules. You may end up paying the price if you push your luck. Involvement with clubs or fun organizations will bring you good fortune.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will be able to make a difference if you push for the underdog today. You will be drawn to group endeavors and, if you take control, you will find yourself in a position of leadership.

Birthday Baby: You will not be one to waste time. You will form an idea and act upon it immediately. You will be competitive and always want to be first.

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL

KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

DAILY CROSSWORD

By Randall J. Hartman
Escondido, CA
4/4/02

ACROSS
1 Stupefy
5 Uh...pardon me
9 Monks' leader
14 Mayberry lad
15 Doozy
16 Mitt
17 Transplanted sausage?
19 Eagle's nest
20 Botanist Gray
21 Med. care plan
22 Plans
24 Segue
25 Told whoppers
26 Gauguin setting
29 Coltrane's instrument
30 Machu Picchu resident
34 Pimiento holder
35 Calendar unit
36 Approach
37 Explorer Zebulon
38 Surrendered formally
39 Surrendered
40 Maintain
41 SWAT attack
42 Arrive
43 Nonentity
44 Pindar poem
45 Bribe money
46 Fancy schmancy
48 Stripped down
49 Back up
52 Select
53 Regular guy
56 "Uncle Vanya" character
57 Transplanted Jethro Tull album?
60 French topper
61 Obligation
62 "Mrs. Bridge" author Connell
63 Buffalo skater
64 Cub Sammy
65 Actress Turner

DOWN
1 "Germinal" writer Emile
2 Musical piece
3 One of Columbus' "ships"
4 Frat party necessity
5 Graduates
6 Impresario Sol
7 Golfer Ernie
8 Folded and spindled
9 Colorful chalcedony
10 Transplanted liberal?
11 Steppenwolf hit, " to Be Wild"
12 Roman poet
13 Golf bag items
18 Chess side
23 Scratched
24 Transplanted revelation?
26 1969 Alfred Hitchcock film
27 "It's !"
28 Appalachian Trail visitor
29 __ Hawkins Dance
31 Rad!
32 Quibble
33 Snowplace
35 Jerry Garcia fans
38 Ticked off
42 Singer Brooks
45 Tropical fruit
47 Emulate Demosthenes
48 Ali vs. Frazier I, II and III
49 CSA soldiers
50 Zeno's home
51 Action word
53 Coffee, slangily
54 Algerian seaport
55 Sicilian volcano
58 Status _
59 Moray

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

A	L	M	S			S	C	E	N	E		J	A	R	S
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3/26/02

RISOTTO balls with cheese and meat sauce

CIBO Rapido along the SM Megastrip

Fast-food 'lechon,' Italian style

PORCHETTA sandwich in *duro* bread

From page D1

Fores, "I've had the wall computer-designed. Circles of optical art range from green to yellow to dark orange then back to yellow."

Having a ball

Aside from the porchetta, Cibo Rapido also offers risotto balls. Filipinos have yet to get over conventional rice dishes, says Fores, but a growing number who frequent the Megastrip are now craving for this latest addition. Made from starchy *arborio* or long-grain rice, the pair of balls comes with either meat sauce or cheese. Every order is served with rich *maionese* and a light tomato-based dip.

"Each ball is deep-fried and coated with bread crumbs," says Fores of her tasty and filling dish. "People normally use leftover risotto, but we don't do that here. Everything is prepared fresh except the pasta."

Cibo, which recently opened its fifth and latest branch at the ABS-CBN compound, uses commercially prepared pasta in favor of fresh egg-based pasta that spoils easily. "I'm saving that for my fine-dining restaurant," she says.

As part of Cibo Rapido's Italian street-food fare, Fores is also perfecting several variants of pizza rustica. Served on a focaccia-type crust, the pizza—like the porchetta and risotto balls—also promises to be luscious, filling and quick and easy to cook.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

Cibo Rapido at Megastrip introduces the ultimate Italian street food—pit-roasted pork with bread or mushroom rice pilaf. It's ciao food with gusto

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Temptations in a teapot

By Cathy Babao Guballa
Photos by Mike Alquinto

IT'S been around for more than 5,000 years, and protects you against heart disease and cancer. You can take it hot or cold—in black, green or oolong, as a flower, fruit or herbal variant. Stephen Villanueva and Charmagne Garcia, both tea lovers, take the art of drinking tea to a different level at The Tea Republic (located at the lobby of the Pacific Star Building, Gil Puyat corner Makati Avenue, tel. 878-8612). Almost a year old, the charming tea salon draws a loyal Makati clientele from dusk until dawn.

"We open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. Lunch is our busiest time of the day but in the afternoons, when the crowd thins out, we have regulars who come to simply unwind or to think," Villanueva says.

Loose vs bagged

Not all teas are created equal; Villanueva and Garcia explain that loose tea leaves are far superior to tea that come in tea bags. "Loose tea leaves are the first pickings when purchased from tea growers. They are sold by the pound and are considerably bigger, guaranteeing a fuller, richer taste." The tea leaves used for tea bags are called "fannings" or "dust" teas, and are usually leftovers after the loose leaf selection.

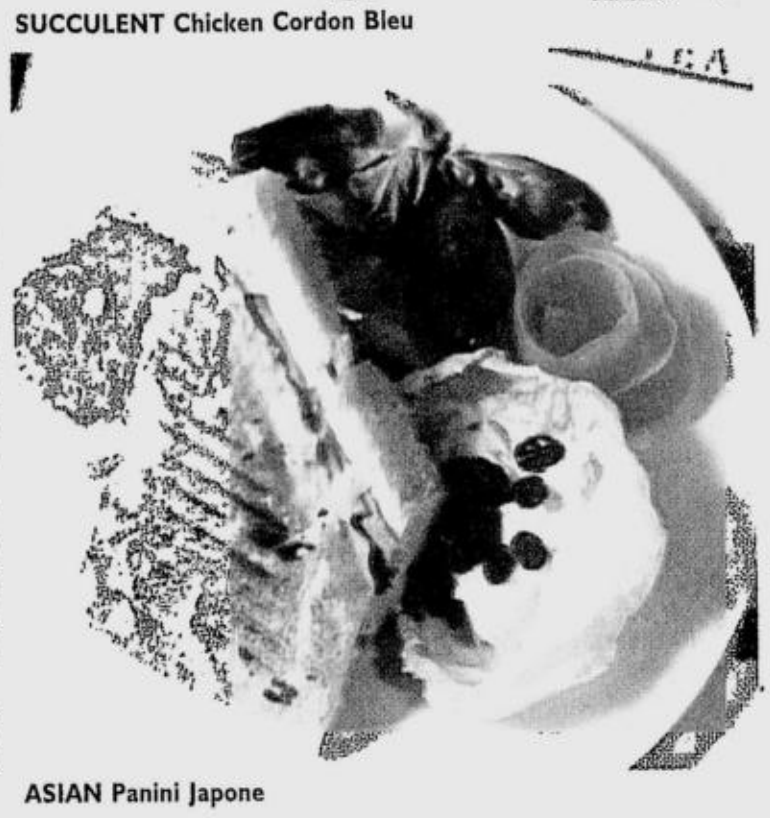
The Tea Republic serves only tea leaves from the finest tea estates in China, India, Sri Lanka, Japan and other tea-growing countries.

Villanueva had worked as an investment banker in Hong Kong for several years and been exposed to different types of tea during his stay there. Garcia used to tour with the world-famous Bayanihan Dance Company and has been a tea lover since she was in college.

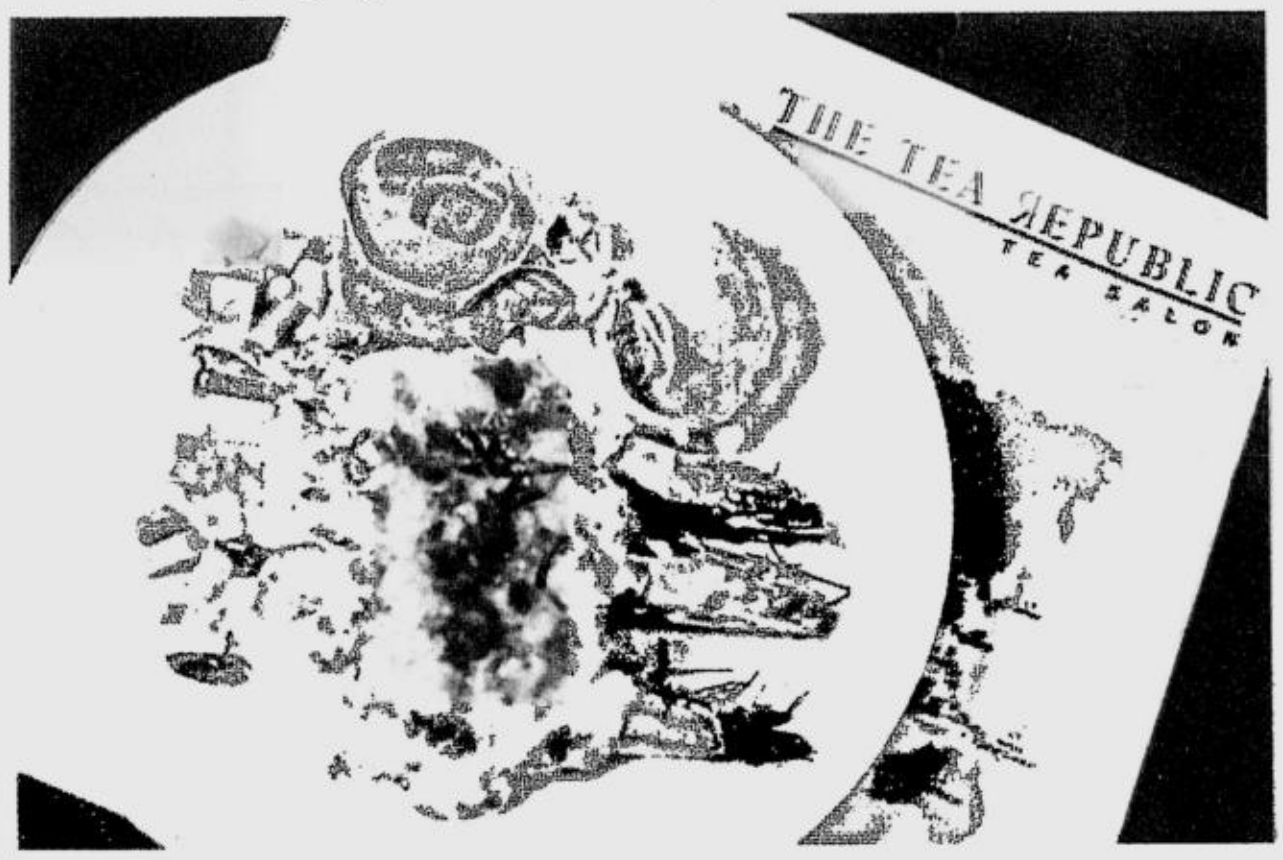
"We really want to bring the healthy tea-drinking lifestyle to Manila," Garcia says. "Tea is a natural product which contains no preservatives, no artificial colorings or additives and is virtually calorie-free when drunk without milk or sugar. A cup of tea also has far less caffeine than a cup of coffee," she says.

Complimented on her lovely skin, Garcia is quick to say she drinks two cups of Lychee Fruit Black Tea, which is supposed to make the drinker look five years younger.

SUCCULENT Chicken Cordon Bleu



ASIAN Panini Japone



PERFECT Prawns Thermidor

Who would think that this age-old drink would make for brisk business?

Revolving selection

There are 70 revolving tea selections at the tea salon. Fruit teas include Fruit Paradise, made of hibiscus blossoms, rose hip peels, apple bits, elderberries and citrus peel; Banana Caramel, a melange of banana bits, apple, hibiscus, rose-hip peels and caramel pieces; Flower Teas such as Jasmine, which helps reduce high-blood pressure and is known to relieve anxiety; Pink Rose Buds Tea, which reduces high cholesterol levels and preserves beauty and youth; Marigold, which relieves digestive disorders like ulcers and gastritis and is known for its detoxifying effects; Herbal Teas like the top-selling Sweet Chamomile, which is great for keeping the nerves and stomach soothed; Green Teas like the traditional Japanese green tea (Sencha) and Black teas like the Lychee Fruit Black Tea and the Great Assam Blend, the tea that tastes and smells most like coffee.

Teas at the salon may be served hot, iced or as tea shakes. However, contrary to its name, it's not all tea at the Tea Republic.

Tried and tested

"We serve all our favorite food here," Villanueva grins. "We want people to know that tea can be taken with practically any food—paninis, pasta, salad, Chicken Cordon Bleu and even salpicao. Each item on the menu has been tried and tested by us, and we make sure we like it before we serve it."

Top-sellers at Tea Republic are Pasta Valenciana (the pasta version of *paella* Valenciana), Grilled Chicken Herb Salad, Salpicado Aglio y Oglio and Panini Japone (grilled Italian sandwich with crab and shrimp). The Prawns Thermidor was succulent and tasty, and perfect with the Toasted Rice Green Tea Shake.

Villanueva says they have regulars who come in every day and order the same thing. "We have a customer who ordered our pesto pasta every day for two months straight, and another one who ordered the prosciutto sandwich each day for a month," he laughs.

The Tea Republic is a cozy, quiet place but can get busy and crowded over the lunch hour. There are soft chairs, low tables and an array of magazines in one corner of the 20-seater salon. Piano music plays in the background.

There is also an al fresco dining area for smokers, which can seat another 20 people.

It's mostly an office crowd that comes to the salon—bank presidents, secretaries, lawyers, advertising people.

The Tea Republic also sells packaged tea leaves in different sizes and lovely clay teapots and cups sourced from Cagayan de Oro. Though relatively new in the business, the salon has a loyal clientele with new ones coming in every week and discovering the health benefits and joys of this centuries-old drink.

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph

PASTA delight

TEA FOR TWO. Garcia and Villanueva

TEA and company

Harmony, purity and tranquility in a bowl of tea

By Cathy Babao Guballa
Photo by Mike Alquinto

THE SPIRIT of tea is the spirit of harmony. Such is the message that Chado, or the way of tea wishes to impart to each and every guest that participates in this intricate Japanese tea ceremony. The way of tea is an art form that has acquired aesthetic significance in Japan. Tea is a beverage that traces its roots to more than a thousand years when Zen monks brought tea, together with the knowledge of its method of preparation, from China to Japan. The Embassy of Japan, together with the Kyoto-based Urasenke Manila Association and the Asia Society, sponsored a lecture and demonstration on the gracious art and practice of tea. The demonstration was lead by Sokaku Kurakazu, a Gyotei tea master of the Urasenke tradition who has been teaching the way of tea in various places in Japan as well as other parts of the world.

Speaking through an interpreter that afternoon at the Turf Room of the Manila Polo Club, Kurakazu described the way of tea "as a one-act drama played between the host and the guests where the room is the stage and the composition of utensils form the scenario."

"There are so many unpleasant things taking place in the world today that we fear losing our humanity, resulting in the destruction of our spirit. In order to save ourselves, we need to find it in the spirit of tea where the heart of the spirit is harmony and its culture is the culture of receiving," he says.

In Japan, when people are invited to a gathering to drink tea, they are asked to sit in a small room and enjoy each other's company in seclusion from the everyday world. The host cleans up the room and hangs a scroll with four characters. *Wa* means "harmony"; the harmony of people with nature, and the harmony of the tea utensils and the manner in which they are used. *Kei* means "respect for all things." *Sei* means "purity" and implies both worldly and spiritual cleanliness. Lastly, *jaku* means "tranquility" or the peace of mind that comes with the realization of the first three principles. "The most important utensil in the room is the scroll," Kurakazu says, "Because it sets the theme for the meeting."

The tea master then prepares a fire to heat the water for making the tea as well as sweets for the guest. He purifies all utensils that are needed for making the tea as it is important to have purity in everything that is used for the tea ceremony. The master then goes on to prepare the tea itself by whisking green powdered tea. "When we whisk the tea, we wish that the person who receives the tea will be happy; when the guest receives it, he should have a happy face," Kurakazu explains.

The green powdered tea that is served at tea gatherings today is descended from the tea brought back to Japan in the 12th century by Zen monks returning from study in China. During that time, it was used as a mild stimulant to aid their study and meditation, and was also valued as a medicinal herb. These Zen monks laid the spiritual foundation for Chado.

The art not only includes the procedure for serving and preparing tea but also the manufacture of tea utensils, the design and construction of tearooms and garden architecture, among others. According to the Urasenke tradition, the bowl of tea, when prepared according to the principles of Chado, is a ritual developed to meet man's need for inner tranquility. It is a ritual of simplicity and economy wherein all can find "peace in a bowl of tea."

Karakazu sums it up as spreading the message of togetherness, "The act of giving and receiving tea is a meeting of feelings between the guest and host. It may be just one meeting so the host must make use of all his creativity for the occasion and the guest will hopefully come away with positive feelings as a result of that meeting."

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph

SUMMER JUNIOR CULINARY WORKSHOP
(FOR BOYS AND GIRLS AGED 6 YEARS & ABOVE AND TEENERS)

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Junior Culinary Workshop for kids aged 6 and above: First Batch - April 16 & 17; Second Batch - May 14 & 15 (Tues-Wed) 8:30 - 12 noon. Let's Cook & Let's Bake **Day 1:** Eggflip, Salisbury Burger, Chicken Pretzels, Spaghetti Bolognese, Choco-berry Mallow Ice Cream. **Day 2:** Twirled Franks, Smartie Cake, Pizza Subway, Popcorn Balls, Milk Shake. Lecture on kitchen safety, proper measurement, table setting and table etiquette. Fee: P1,500 inclusive of ingredients, apron and chef's hat and lunch.

Young People's Cook-In for Teeners: First Batch - April 18 - 20; and Second Batch - May 16 - 18 (Th-S) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. **Day 1:** Japanese Cooking: Sushi, Soft-shell Crab Sushi, California Maki, Tonkatsu, Mango Mousse. **Day 2:** Italian Fare: Zuppa Pavese (Poached Egg Soup), Bacon & Peas Risotto, Pasta Primavera, Honey Rhum Fritters. **Day 3:** Baking: Chocolate Mousse, Pineapple Carrot Muffin, Walnut Pie including simple cake decoration. Fee: P2,000 inclusive of ingredients, apron and chef's hat and lunch.

ONE-DAY SPECIALS (FOR ADULTS)

Japanese Cooking: Apr. 6 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 12 nn. Chawan Mushi, Kamameshi, Miso Soup, Mixed Tempura, Sukiyaki, Katsudon, Domburi (Japanese Rice toppings) P750.

Sushi, Sashimi & Soba Class: Apr. 6 (Sat) 2 - 5 p.m. Different types of Sushi and Sashimi: Tamago Maki and Nigiri, California Maki & Temaki, Kappamaki, Tekkamaki, Kanimaki & Nigiri, Maguro Nigiri, Ebimaki & Nigiri, Hot Udon, Yakisoba (fried noodles), Zarusoba (cold noodles). P750

Baking with Institutional Mixes: Apr. 20 (Sat) 1:30 - 5 p.m. Assorted Brownies (Black Forest, Apple Chunk, Rocky Road). Pineapple Carrot Cake, Choco-Banana Loaf, Chocolate Muffins with Fudge Frosting, Hotdog on Stick, Butterscotch Squares and Chocolate Crinkles. Bonus: Chocolate Rhumballs. P500

Restaurant Operations: Apr. 26 & 27 (F-S) 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Kitchen organization, cycle menu planning, costing, cost control, purchasing, labor, payroll, inventory, and restaurant works, menu presentation of new popular restaurant, proven techniques on profitable service operations with free lunch. P2,000

Pasta Cooking: Apr 27 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Lasagna, Chicken Cannelloni, assorted pasta dishes and sauces (Garlic Fettucini, Carbonara, Putanesca, Pesto and Negra). Bonus: Homemade pasta making. P700

CERTIFICATE COURSES WITH HANDS-ON (FOR ADULTS)

Cooking II (Comprehensive Cooking) For Career Cooks: Apr. 11 - 13 (Th-S) or Apr. 24 - 26 (W-F) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Coverage: menu planning, standard techniques of preparing stocks, soups, sauces, dressings, salads, main dishes, homemade cold cuts, etc. applicable to 1001 recipes including plate and platter presentation. Free lunch P2,500

Basic Baking: Apr. 11 - 13 (Th-S) or April 24 - 26 (W-F) 1:30 - 5 p.m. Hands-on techniques in preparing basic pie crust, different types of cakes, quick bread, yeast breads and more. P2,000

Cooking I (Basic Cooking) For Messman, Stewards and Beginners: Apr. 30, May 2, 3 (T, Th, F) 1:00 - 5:30 p.m. Basic food preparation, cooking methods for vegetables, pasta, meats and poultry dishes; Techniques of de-boning chicken and fish; Basic garnishing; Table setting and napkin folding; Actual preparation of popular Filipino and Oriental dishes. P2,200

EVENING SESSIONS: April 17, 18, 19 (W-F) 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Catering: Portion Control, Costing, Inventory, Table Layout & Equipment Sourcing with actual preparation of popular catering dishes: Morcon, Galantina, Pork Asado, Soy Chicken, Roast Pork, Baked Macaroni, All Meat Paella and special Gulaman dessert. P2,000.

Bakery & Bakeshop: Commercial methods used in preparing breads, pies and cakes including costing, production batching with actual hands-on. P2,000

Integrated Workshop on Waitering and Bartending: Coverage: Creative techniques for efficient table setting and attractive arrangement, napkin folding and skirting, Suggested selling techniques; order taking; Table setting; Setting up service station and checkpoint; Serving beverage; Bartending basics; and Cocktail mixing and garnish. P2,000

For reservations and inquiries, visit the Maya Kitchen at the 8th Floor, Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Ave. (Pasay Road), Makati City or call tels. **892-1185 or 892-5011** loc. **108**; or e-mail us at *mayakitchen@pacific.net.ph*